SPORTS / A16
RP 5 downs Taiwan, gains quarterfinals

BUSINESS / B6
Meralco wants to hike distribution rate by 26.9¢

ACROSS / A14
Rescuers find 2 more bodies of miners

LIFESTYLE / C4
How to prepare for an international marathon

MISS PHILIPPINES Bianca Manalo, PAL flight attendant who stands 5-feet 10 inches tall, poses during Sunday's swimsuit event in Freeport, Grand Bahama Island.

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Tuesday, August 11, 2009 ★ 5 sections / Vol. 24 / No. 244 P18

Another Lea(h) on the world stage

By Cynthia D. Balana

ANOTHER LEA(H) IS CAPTIVATING the hearts of audiences on the world stage.

Leah delos Santos, who plays "Maria" in the German production of the musical "West Side Story," has conquered German audiences with her musical virtuosity in stage productions, according to the Philippine Embassy in Berlin in its report to the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA).

"Tickets are sold out since its premiere in June until the end of the summer season in September," the DFA said on its website (www.dfa.gov.ph).

ANOTHER A11

MANILA-BORN Leah delos Santos plays Maria in the German production of "West Side Story." CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Palace won't say sorry

'We won't glamorize this issue any more'

By Christian V. Esguerra
in Manila
and Joey A. Gallaga
Inquirer Visayas

SO SORRY, BUT NO sorry.

Pummeled with criticism, Malacañang yesterday refused to apologize for the purportedly extravagant dinner that President Macapagal-Arroyo and her delegation had last week at a famed restaurant in New York.

"If the dinner was really ostentatious, then there has to be an apology, but it wasn't ostentatious and I stand by that," Press Secretary Cerge Remonde said in a media briefing when asked if the Palace would apologize.

Remonde has pointed to Leyte Rep. Ferdinand Martin Romualdez as the guest who paid for the dinner that a New York tabloid said cost $20,000

PALACE A8

CORY SCHOOL IN TONDO President Corazon C. Aquino High School opens at Bauxco in Manila with 15 classrooms that can accommodate more than 780 students. It will be used by first-year students of Manila High School who are residents of Bauxco. (See story in Metro, Page A18) BEN CRISTOBAL

Cop in Cory funeral gets spot promotion

By Tarra Quismundo
and Jocelyn R. Uy

WHAT MOST IGORIT COPS take years to achieve, he did in just about nine hours.

Danilo Malafe Jr. earned a promotion, a medal, a new assignment and a cash award yesterday for what the Philippine National Police (PNP) hailed as "exemplary performance" during the Aug. 5 funeral of former President Corazon Aquino.

In rites held at Camp Crame, the 25-year-old Isabela native—one of the four members of the honor guard who stood at attention for hours on the flower-decked truck that bore Aquino's casket—rose in rank from Police Officer 1 to 2.

At Camp Aguinaldo, the Armed Forces of the Philippines also recognized Malafe's counterparts in the military, including another set of escorts whose "performance" was apparently overshadowed by the Aug. 5 event.

Private First Class Rico Seno, Seaman First Class Arturo Rosalda Jr. and Airman First Class Sherwin del Rosario also

COP A11

Top Reds to be freed to revive peace talk

By Tarra Quismundo

THE GOVERNMENT HAS agreed to free a top rebel leader and another detainee, and pledged not to arrest two others in an effort to revive long-stalled peace talks with the Communist-led National Democratic Front (NDF) aimed at ending a bloody 40-year rebellion, a Malacañang official said yesterday.

The concession was made to allow the four rebels to join the resumption of peace negotiations scheduled late this month in Norway, presidential peace process adviser Avelino Razon Jr. said.

One of them, Elizabeth Principe, alleged secretary general of the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army (CPP-NPA), was actually released in July upon the request of the NDF negotiating panel.

The release of another detainee, peasant leader Randall Echanis, and eight others facing criminal charges is being worked on with "best efforts," Razon said.

TOP REDS A6

Twitter, not coffee, is now day's first stop

KARL AND DORSEY GUIDE OF East Lansing, Michigan, can remember simpler mornings, not too long ago. They sat together and chatted as they ate breakfast.

They read the newspaper and conversed only with the television for the attention of their two teenage sons. That was so last century.

Today, Red wakes up at around

TWITTER A13

Massacre films may be required viewing for students

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.
and Marlcar Cinco

THE HORROR! THE HORROR!

Filipino students may have to sit through Carlo J. Caparas' films such as "Vincenzo Manansala: God Bless Mercy as Us" and the "The Martin Cenzaga Page-Slay: In God We Trust" because President Macapagal-Arroyo has named him National Artist for Visual Arts and Film.

Singer-songwriter Jose Pardo and comedian Leo Martinez said the films of the self-styled Filipino master of massacre movies would be required viewing for students since the state was compelled to promote the "great works" of its National Artists.

The government normally spends P1 million a year to promote the works of each National Artist nationwide, according to Bayan Muna Rep. Teodoro Casiño. He said the amount was on top of the P180,000 a National Artist gets (P50,000 for posthumous awards) and P24,000 a month.

"I think President Arroyo should sit through a 24-hour movie marathon of Caparas films before naming him national artist and junking the selection process altogether," Pardo said after a press con-

PAPARAZZI FILMS A6

A Filipino guide to the Holy Land

By Volt Contreras

WITH A NAME LIKE EXALENCION Cruz-Schlossberg, she was meant to take you on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, bringing you to places where Jesus Christ walked, suffered and died, and where, based on ancient beliefs, the Second Coming would commence.

With her trademark "sunflower" umbrella keeping her cool under the Judean sun (God making it easier for her touring group to spot her in the crowd), Schlossberg said she believes

A11/LIFE/ASIA

BEHOLD! Exie "Ruvoova" Cruz-Schlossberg gestures while giving a tour on Mount of Olives. VOLT CONTRERAS

GMA unveils ₱3.5-B biodiesel project

LADAG CITY—PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday unveiled the country's first coconut biodiesel project that would be jointly undertaken by Filipinos and Japanese in more than 1,000 hectares of grassland in the northern town of Pagudpud.

Ms Arroyo flew to Ilocos Norte, her first visit here this year, to lead the ceremonial launching of the P3.5-billion project at the provincial capitol.

She signified her full support for the first coco-diesel project that would cover the villages of Balaoi, Caunayan and Caparispisan in Pagudpud.

The project, which includes the establishment of a P600-million coconut processing plant in nearby Pasuquin town, will be jointly undertaken by Philippine BioEnergy Northern Luzon Inc. (Bealinc) and its Japan-based partner, Pacific Bio-Fields Corp., led by its president, Motoaki Hayashida.

GMA A2

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

SUERTRES

2	8	1
2	7	3
2	7	4
8	8	4
1	0	3
8	8	9

FOUR DIGIT

MEGALOTTO 6/45

4 16 18 20 33 44

P9,061,214.40

Noynoy not inclined to run, but...

By Christine O. Avendaño

WITH HIS FAMILY GRIEVING THE LOSS OF THEIR mother, Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III said yesterday he was "not inclined" to seek higher office in 2010—but did not rule out the possibility he would change his mind.

Aquino told reporters that right now his inclination was not to run for "higher office" next year amid calls for him to seek the presidency or be the standard-bearer of Liberal Party president Sen. Manuel Roxas.

But one, the only son of the late former President Corazon Aquino and mastermind opposition leader Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr., said that he did not want his four sisters and other family members to go through another grueling election campaign in three months when they were still grieving the loss of their mother.

"At this point in time, let me just say that I be given guidance as to what my responsibilities are to the people, my God, my family and to my country," he said.

But Aquino also said that in his context had taught him not to shirk his duties, "big battles [are] integral of who I am[ongoing] as...[I do] anniversary, and I need to respond. I will not look down," the senator said.

Asked what would make him run in 2010, Aquino said he had not thought about it.

He admitted that he started thinking seriously only when calls for him to run in 2010 were raised recently.

Supporters calling on Noynoy to run for president spiraled last June after his mother's funeral on July 5, which brought hundreds of thousands of her followers out on the streets.

Former President Aquino died on Aug.1 after a months-long battle with colon cancer.

For his part, Roxas said Aquino was qualified to run for president and that the Liberal Party was ready for him.

"Why not? It's up to him and to time he will decide what he must do," Roxas said of Aquino.

Asked whether Aquino would be his running mate, Roxas said the party had not yet discussed it, especially since Mr. Aquino had just entered [mourning].

On the other hand...an administration congressman yesterday doubted the "Cory magic" as manifested by the throngs who attended her funeral would rub off on any political party or candidate including her son.

"The euphoria must not be attributed or translated to a popular endorsement, whether of an Aquino family member or...or a rejection of any party...or political party," said Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman of the ruling Lakas-Kampi-CMD party.

The outpouring of grief by the thousands who crowded the streets leading to the cemetery has prompted pundits to predict a realignment of forces using the "Cory magic."

"These forecasts have to be related to because the tenuous, deep popular outpouring of sentiment, sympathy and support for the late President Cory was almost solely personal to her," said Lagman.

Shortly after the late president's burial on Wednesday, Manila Rep. Bulluts Bautista said Cory's death had changed the political landscape and the 12 which has bearing as one of its leading members, would get the biggest boost.

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, who is in the administration bloc in the Senate, but is also allied with opposition leader Joseph Estrada, had another take on the situation.

Defensor-Santiago said yesterday she believed "Cory magic" had been transferred to her children.

"So long as it is a child of President (Cory)...because they are more concerned with her philosophy and, of course, have imbibed the moral values for adults to rise to same loving level," Santiago said. (With reports from Jeannette I. Andrade)

But asked if would mean a run electoral victory for Noynoy and his son, Santiago said "He might not be the one sir," She said the younger Aquino still needed to show more achievements in the Senate.

Santiago said she believed Noynoy would not want to win a political race just because he wanted the Aquino name. "He is not the type," she said.

She said Noynoy might also find it hard to win the presidential race next year because he would be entering the game too late in the day.

'Name Rizal et al. heroes before Cory'

By Gil Cabunegan and Michael Lim Ubac

HOLD YOUR HORSES! BEFORE former President Corazon Aquino can be declared a national hero, Congress must first declare the hero or six hero Rizal, Andres Bonifacio, Emilio Aguinaldo and other heroes of the Philippine Revolution.

In a privilege speech, Camarines Sur's Rep. Lenlen Villafuerte Chiu said that her staff stumbled upon a little known law that Congress had yet to name as heroes our forefathers who were prominent in the fight for independence under the Spanish colonial regime.

That Chiu moved to have Congress adopt a resolution formally naming Rizal, Bonifacio, Aguinaldo, Apolinario Mabini, Melchora Aquino and Gregorio del Pilar and collectively proclaimed as heroes in history as national heroes.

Their official declaration would pave the way for Aquino's inclusion in the country's pantheon of heroes.

However, some representatives felt that there was no need for Congress to officially declare Rizal and the others as heroes, they having been enshrined in the hearts of Filipinos.

Last week, Chiu sponsored House Joint Resolution No. 43, calling on Congress to declare Aquino a national hero and urging the National Historical Institute (NHI) to designate, build and declare historical structures, edifices and monuments pertaining to her [unclear].

A similar measure, House Joint Resolution No. 43, was filed by Agusan del Sur Rep. Rodolfo Plaza. The measure seeks to name Aquino a "hero of the Republic of the Philippines."

In a reply to Plaza's speech, Marina Deles Rep. Rodolfo Fortes, the measure seeks to name Aquino a national hero, but with a proviso: That her name be honored. Jose Rodrigues "Pepe" Aquino Jr. be also named as such.

Rodrigues said he was saddened that the only hero Congress had accorded the amazing whose name, sacrifices in 1983 sparked the uprising against Ferdinand Marcos and reclaimed as the People Power revolt of 1986, was to name the country's international airport after him.

Like last week, Sen. Richard Gordon had endorsed that Aquino supporters should not rush to give the former president the highest honors including naming her a national hero and elevating her to national cult creation but reminded and the national had proved can no grief.

Gordon, in an interview on a private radio station dwelt on Friday said the Aquino family should be wary of those who would take advantage of the public sentiment for Aquino to boost their political careers.

"You can't discount that during this time many will come out for political reasons," he said.

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Among Ed drops GMA lawyer from recount

By Christian V. Esguerra
and Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon

PAMPANGA GOV "NERINO" ED PANLILIO has terminated the services of his lawyer Romeo Macalintal ahead of the recount of votes in the contested 2007 gubernatorial race in the province.

Panlilio dropped Macalintal—who is also the lawyer of President Macapagal-Arroyo—saying that the case would put the lawyer in a bind.

"I feel you should not handle it because it will definitely tie the Arroyos to this and hit them," he told Macalintal in a text message Sunday.

"Since you have been lawyering for them, I don't want to put you in a bind."

The President is known to be close to Ilda Dimalanta, who lost to Panlilio by only 1,247 votes and sought the recount. She is the wife of alleged "jueteng" lord Bolodi "Bong" Pineda.

At a media briefing in Malacañang, Macalintal said, "I can no longer speak as lawyer of Governor Panlilio because as of today, I have terminated my services upon his request."

Macalintal said Panlilio knew about his legal commitments to Ms Arroyo when the lawyer offered his services pro bono before the 2007 elections.

He said the President never discussed the recount with him.

In a phone interview, Macalintal said he had told Panlilio he might have been "ill-advised regarding some matters about your political ambitions."

"I pity you, Governor, because it seems you're being savaged (ambushed) by your alleged supporters," he said he told Panlilio.

"Being a point, you should not be judgmental. You should be more impartial, guided by your own principles and convictions," he added.

"Governor Panlilio is no longer a man of the Word because he has become a man of the world," Macalintal said.

Panlilio, however, said he was "not leaving the bridges" between them.

He said he was grateful to Macalintal for his help.

"It was a very happy experience," he said.

"We will still consult him from time to time. He agreed, said yes without any hesitation," Panlilio said.

But Macalintal, in a text message to the Inquirer, said: "I'm sure there will be no further consultations because that will run counter to the perception of his supporters, which puts the hands of his detractor or reconcile are from the recount."

Deanna Francisco Jr., Gino Pelliteros and Dino Quadro continue to be in the legal team helping the governor deal with the recount case, he said.

In Congress, Isidro Ungab Ernesto Pineda said he and his mother were pursuing the recount because they "only want to know the true score."

"We just want to know if Ondoy victims for Ninoy Ildefo were really counted. We're not saying we were cheated. It is not that we want her to assume the post of governor, we know there's little time," the young Pineda said.

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Bishops vow to watch over CARPer

By Dona Pazzibugan

CATHOLIC BISHOPS SAID THEY will organize groups to closely monitor the implementation of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program Extension with Reforms (CARPer) to be sure small farmers were awarded their own land in the next five years.

Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo, president of the influential Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), said they have to "guard" the land reform program and see to it that the P150-billion budget over the next five years actually goes to the farmers.

"The implementation must be guarded in favor of the farmers. The money allotted for it must be used with accountability and justice," Lagdameo said.

Manila Auxiliary Bishop Broderick Pabillo, an outspoken farmers' advocate, said he feared that if no one watched over the implementation, the new law may also "go the way of the original CARP."

The original CARP is here for 20 years, now extended for ten considering its target of distributing ownership of huge private landholdings is the reason farmers.

Hunger strike

Pabillo joined a group farmers in a hunger strike last December to press Congress to pass the new CARPer.

Pabillo said church and civil society groups have formed a group called "Bantay CARPer" to monitor implementation, pinpoint problems, and lobby against proposed laws that run against the aims of agrarian reform.

The proposed laws include allowing foreigners to own land and giving giant corporations priority in contracts for agri-business that would displace.

"If we do not monitor its implementation, five more will pass quickly without the law being monitored," Pabillo said.

He said that the P150 billion allocation over five years would not be enough since the amount is supposed to cover both land acquisition and support services for farmers.

"We are glad and thankful to the government and our lawmakers for passing CARPer. But we will continue to be vigilant and make sure this law will benefit our farmers," he said.

"Let us value our farmers because although they produce our food, they are usually neglected. So we should be to their needs and support them," he said.

No sacred cows

Butuan Bishop Martin Jumoad said they will monitor the CARPer implementation to see to it that the remaining vast private landholdings would be subjected to land reform this time.

"There should be no sacred cows to be spared, because at our hands the lands belong to many powerful politicians," he said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo on Friday signed Republic Act No. 9700 extending CARP for another five years, after the original law expired last year.

Lani capable of doing SMC job, says Bong

SEN. RAMON "BONG" REVILLA JR. (SITTER) defended the appointment of his wife, actress Lani Mercado, to the board of San Miguel Corp. (SMC) as a government nominee, saying she was "capable of serving the people."

Revilla asked the public to "give her a chance," saying the statehouse closed its response to the appointment may be due to the "crab mentality" of Filipinos.

"Lani was a dean's lister (in school) and she is capable of doing her job," he said in reference to the board.

Mercado was nominated to the SMC board by President Macapagal-Arroyo last month.

The government controls about 25 percent of the food and beverage conglomerate and is entitled to name five nominees to the company's board.

Anyway, Revilla said, Mercado would not be on the SMC board for long because she is planning to run for Congress next year representing the first district of Cavite.

"Upon the filing of her candidacy (in November), automatically she will resign, or she doesn't resign it," Revilla said. *Obviencia O. Acendoda*

'Probe LTFRB on taxi meters'

PARTYLIST REP. VIGOR MENDOZA II (1-Teodi) yesterday urged Congress to look into the Land Transportation and Franchising Regulatory Board's decision to authorize a small group of suppliers to import (weight-measuring) taxi meters and sell them at "exorbitant" prices.

In a statement, Mendoza claimed the meters being offered by the LTFRB-contracted suppliers were overpriced and would yield their combined profits of over P400 million.

Mendoza said the LTFRB's decision to authorize only one or two firms to supply the taxi meters with exclusive fees led to the near doubling of a meter's price—from P7,500 to P15,000 per unit.

With 43,000 units operating nationwide, this would amount to a potential profit of P387 million, Mendoza said.

Aside from the exorbitant price of the taxi meters, Mendoza said taxi operators were surprised the LTFRB decided to require new provincial taxis to have straight rather than arc-type windshields—units only intended for installation in Metro Manila. *(PDI, Cebu bureau)*

COPW Serving and Protecting the Filipino Consumer

CONSUMER & OIL PRICE WATCH

WHO WILL PROTECT THE CONSUMER FROM UNSAFE AND UNDERWEIGHT LPG CYLINDERS?

LPG cooking gas is a basic commodity that consumers use particularly those belonging to the C,D,E economic classes.

A PROFILE OF THE LPG INDUSTRY

1. The major LPG players are Petron, LiquiGaz, Shell, Total, Petronas and Pryce Gas who supply 30% of the country's requirements.
2. 6 million of the LPG tanks being used nationwide are in good condition.
3. 1 million tanks are unfit for use and must be condemned as scrap.
4. Another 3 million tanks are due for repair and testing by requalifiers accredited by the DOE-DTI-BPS (Bureau of Product Standards).

Senator Mar Roxas, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Trade and Commerce, Senator Rodolfo Biazon and Congressman Rodolfo Paza unanimously agreed during the Senate Hearing on August 3, 2009 on the URGENT need to pass the LPG Bill to which the COPW concurred.

FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE CONSUMERS, THEIR HOMES AND THEIR PROPERTIES, WE URGE CONGRESS TO:

1. **Pass the pending LPG Bill with utmost priority.**
   We need a law that will give the necessary powers to our regulatory and enforcement agencies so that they can stop and punish illegal activities that not only cheat the Filipino consumers but threaten their lives and properties as well.
2. **Place the LPG industry under the supervision of the Department of Trade and Industry and NOT the Department of Energy.**
   Under the Deregulation Law, the accreditation of importers of cooking gas is no longer done by the DOE as they maintain that free market forces should prevail and that other government agencies should perform this function.

   The LPG Bill should include the granting of powers to the DTI to accredit importers and suppliers of LPG and LPG cylinders, set and implement safety and accurate filling standards, and impose sanctions and penalties on erring importers, refillers and marketers.

   The DTI has the network, competence and political will that will enable it to regulate the LPG industry, apply sanctions against unscrupulous trade practices **AND** protect the Filipino consumer!

WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK

Do you agree that the LPG industry should be placed under the supervision of the DTI and NOT the DOE?

____ AGREE ____ DISAGREE

Text COPW REACT <AGREE OR DISAGREE> to 2910.

TEXT NOW!

RAUL T. CONCEPCION
Chairman

Visit the **COPW website**. Log in to **copw.net**

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, August 11, 2009
19th Week in Ordinary Time
Clare

1st Reading: Jb 9:1-3.6-7.14-16
Gospel: Mt 18:1-5.10.12-14

The disciples came to Jesus and asked him, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"

Then Jesus called a little child, set the child in the midst of the disciples, and said, "I assure you that unless you change and become like little children, you cannot enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever becomes lowly like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven, and whoever receives such a child in my name receives me.

"See that you do not despise any of these little ones. For I tell you, their angels in heaven continually see the face of my heavenly Father.

"What do you think of this? If a man owns a hundred sheep and one of them strays, won't he leave the ninety-nine on the hillside and go to look for the stray one? And I tell you, when he finally finds it, he is more pleased about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not go astray. In the same way, it is not the will of your Father in heaven that even one of these little ones should be lost."

Commentary:

Jesus answered based of God's common greatness. A shoulder remembered that his audience would not be interested to talk to some abstract theological concept. They would have thoughts of media's descriptions. So, God began to create God was an only of value to us. He called to take love of the people, presenting them, preaching for them, embracing their daily needs.

In a strategic age as ours, this is still how we are, today, we are God's spiritual living. He encourages us to be children and learn. He will never tell us. When Jesus commanded Joshua as their leader, whose wisdom, courage and affection they had long known, the things to make sure the first thing it didn't matter who their leader was, because God would be with them, protecting them. This is still the deciding factor—it doesn't matter who our leader is, or who we are, when we have God with us. Therefore, we ought to be of good cheer through God, we shall be victorious. Whatever we may end to obedience to Mt 18, the whole world will come to know that we are in him, acting on God's commitment.

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A Filipino guide to the Holy Land

From page A1

she has fulfilled God's calling.

"This not just a job. (It's) more of a calling; (it's) what God wanted," she said.

Known among Israeli friends as Batsheva, which is Hebrew for fisaheiress, she is the only Filipino tour guide licensed by the Israeli government.

If her visitor-clients are willing to listen, she can transform the Holy Land itinerary of sacred stones, iconic churches and olive groves into a poignant spiritual retreat.

Along with a keen knowledge of Jerusalem's history, Schlossberg carries a Bible from where she makes a verse or two to help illuminate what Christ said or did at a particular site, and what the believers today can draw from the place apart from a souvenir photo.

At the place known as the Garden of Gethsemane, for example, she quotes passages from Matthew and then explained: "This is the place where Jesus could have said 'no' to his crucifixion.

"I always encourage (tourists) to pray here or bring (fruit or) olive from Israel (the) last temptation," she told the visitors during a recent tour.

Top spots

At the Basilica of the Agony, Schlossberg said the attractive shelters (he took) where Jesus perspired blood while in deep prayer. Nearby is the spot where Judas Iscariot betrayed Jesus with a kiss.

At Shepherds' Field draped in Bethlehem, which tradition holds to be the spot where an angel announced the birth of Christ to shepherds, Schlossberg got her group to sing Christmas carols—never mind if it was still a little over-the-noisy.

On the slopes of the breezy Mount of Olives, on (he site called Dominus Flevit, "this is where Jesus wept for Jerusalem," she said. Behind her stretched the hot-tine panorama of the Old City and its most famous landmark, the golden Dome of the Rock.

With their heads bobbing back-drop, she retraced how the great city rose, fell and rose again through centuries of invasions and conflicts while uniquely becoming host to three major religions—Christianity, Islam and Judaism.

"This city has seen so many conflicts up to this day, that if there would be World War III, it would probably start here," Schlossberg said in half-jest. "I pray to God it will never be divided again."

Tragedy in the air

Schlossberg, a native Ilocandin, began her life-changing trip to Jerusalem, quite by chance.

In September 1991, a Soviet jet fighter shot down Kuwait Airlines (KAC) Flight 607 where (it) injured seven prohibited Soviet weapons, killing all 200 passengers and crew, including Schlossberg's father Alfredo and cousin Edith.

Schlossberg was then a successful accountant based in New York (he University of the East accounting graduate migrated to America in 1971 and married Ben Schlossberg, an American architect from the Bronx) to a Bible study group in 1975.

Devastated by the tragedy, her widowed mother Belinda asked the Schlossberg couple to accompany her on a night-day "consolation tour" of Jerusalem.

Where she belongs

"After the tour, on our flight back to the US, I could not stop crying on the plane. I don't remember on that flight (how) on the way I left the Philippines," Schlossberg said. "My mind cannot understand it, but my heart could not deny it."

EXIT "Runaway" Cruz. Schlossberg is the first Filipino licensed by the Israeli government to be a tour guide in Jerusalem and other holy sites. NIÑO JESUS ORBETA

When her husband asked why, her reply was plain yet firm: "I belong to (he) not?"

Three years later, the "intense longing" was still there. By then, Schlossberg had taken to playing Hebrew music at home and "was still hugging" her spouse.

"Discerning that there must be something beyond this longing, Ben said we should ask our Church (community) to pray with us on our next discovery from the (can). He said that probably the Lord was leading us to immigrate to Israel."

Moving to the Holy Land

The couple and their four young children (then aged between 2 and 12 years old) finally "uprooted" themselves, moved (to) their "heart (to) home" to America and moved to the Holy Land in 1988.

Although her husband Ben is a (ew born to Brooklyn who became a Christian in his teens, Schlossberg said "it was difficult when we started again."

"The culture shock, the language difficulty, the high cost of living, the loneliness of having no family and friends, the absence of Damascus (which most really is not really (where) (the way Filipinos do it) here," she said.

Schlossberg herself lost 18 pounds adjusting to her new life. Its longer was the she "embraces Side," the Filipina in (he air skies," of her Yiola days.

In that former life, she once literally fell ill due to stress and office intrigue following a quick promotion, she said. She (dies "Ish empty inside" if not for the Bible studies.

The verse

In 1992, the drought of re-running her socio-economic position in Israel until she read this verse: "Go back to your own people and tell them (he wonderful things they (ood has done for you."

Did God, after taking her to America and then to Israel, want her to go back to the Philippines? (he (hey wondered. She realized later that (he verse meant fellow Filipinos in Israel.

"I dropped the idea of registering in an accounting school. I looked) the Lord (for a sign). I asked Him (he) a chance to meet the Philippine Ambassador. I had no idea what the ambassador was," Schlossberg said.

Two days later, she bumped into then Ambassador Rosalio de Pero Suroza during Mass at Saint Dome Church in Jerusalem.

"That opened the door to a new beginning for me. Sarita and I became very good friends and had weekly Bible study meetings at her home in Herzliya," she recalled.

The become more involved in the activities of the Filipino community in Israel.

She played host to visiting congregations, among them the (Singing Ambassadors and the last one, this time. She provided temporary shelter for Filipinos left homeless by unpaternity problems, and gave spiritual counsel to Filipino patients in hospitals.

Tour guide

How she got an (ic)ssli became to be a tour guide was also a result of Bible contemplation and prayerful research.

Schlossberg had inquired about the job with the Ministry of Tourism in August 1994 although she was already a (month late. Nevertheless, she had this strong possible feeling that she could still make it.

A few days later, Ben came home with some big news: "Honey, there are two applicants who didn't pass, (ou can still apply."

After took the entrance test and worried about her Hebrew language skills. She was overjoyed in the examining panel assured that somehow she "understood every word" I said, and that changed the mind of the others (in the panel), including the archeologists."

Touring nonbelievers

Schlossberg went on to finish the two-year course on tour guiding.

She said she enjoys her job, which she considers a calling. The only issue it becomes "difficult" is when she is also she's giving a tour to "nonbelievers" or tourists "who just went to hear the history... This is where Jesus prayed, and that's it. (t's like the Ice Castle me to (being) supposed," she said of the experience.

She once accompanied a "group of masons" from a communist country who wanted her early in the tour. "No Bible, no Bible!"

Favorite pilgrims

Her favorite pilgrims, of course, are the Filipinos. "Whenever you come together, we all sense) the happy (ones peeking with) life and excitement."

"They are the easiest to guide and (his opinion is shared by almost all tour guides in (srael. They are the most sought-after by guides, maybe in the same way that Filipino caregivers (in Israel) are most desired by elderly-citizens and Filipino nurses are the most pursued by health care," Schlossberg said.

But her kababayan (compatriots), she reserves a place of (rule Lord Jesus. At the Church of the Pater Noster, written over its arch are (wo words of the "Our Father" in 146 languages, including four Filipino dialects—Tagalog, Ilocanogo, Bisaya, and Cebuano.

Filipinos are therefore amply represented at the Pater Noster, which also stands on the Mount of Olives, where according to ancient beliefs Christ "will come back, sitting on a cloud."

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Top Reds to be freed to revive peace talks

Front page A1

Three are already released as she can participate as an NDF consultant ... In the case of Echanis, that's being resolved on," he said.

Two other communist leaders on an large list fuming national charges—Vicente Ladlad and Rafael Baylosis—will not be released while involved in the talks, Rosca said.

Duration of peace talks

"We're giving peace a chance," Rosca told The Associated Press.

But he chuckled to the hopes that the release of the detainees "will be for the duration of the peace talks only. This is not unthinkable of changes against them."

Private individuals Ladlad and Baylosis were among the more than 30 people charged with rebellion in February 2006 for alleged involvement in hatching an "extreme writ" of conspiracy to overthrow President Macapagal-Arroyo.

A year later, Echanis, Ladlad and Baylosis were also charged with multiple murder, along with Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo and self-exiled CPP founder Jose Ma. Sison, for allegedly masterminding a purge in the ranks of communists which killed more than 300 years ago.

"We're very optimistic, very positive that with the resumption of talks. A lot of areas will be covered. One of them is socioeconomic reform and land reform as the end of hostilities. Never before have we talked about this," Rosca said.

"But government and the NDF panels agreed to sit down again after talks were stalled in 2004 following the GRP's protest of its inclusion in the US and European Union's list of terror organizations.

No more 'thorny' issues

Rosca said the talks would reopen this month after both parties finished out "thorny" issues that had earlier impeded discussions.

"The resumption of formal talks is tentatively set on the last week of August. There were unprofessional's stalled but this was resolved and there are no more impediments now," he said.

The Associated Press reported that the talks would resume on Aug. 26. Those would be held for at least a week in Oslo, with the government panel headed by former Labor Secretary Nieves Confesor.

If that, who was chair of the NDF panel before the peace talks collapsed, was arrested in Cebu, Quezon City by policemen belonging to the Intelligence and Security Group and the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) in November 2007.

ELIZABETH Principe shudders as she is presented to the media in this photo taken on Dec. 1, 2007. AFP/JOSEL

NAZON

She was wanted for rebellion and kidnapping with double-murder cases in Isabela, and three counts of robbery with murder and robbery with arson in Nueva Vizcaya.

In January last year, her daughter, Lorena Santos, filed a petition for the writs of habeas corpus and of amparo on behalf of her mother and father, Leo Velasco. Velasco was abducted in Cagayan de Oro City in February 2007 by plainclothesmen, along with a man in a black shirt with the letters "CIDG" on the back.

The Court of Appeals, however, denied the petition in July 2008.

KMP leader

Echanis, the deputy secretary general of the militant Filipino Magbubuki ng Pilipinas, was arrested in January 2008, in Bago City in Negros Occidental, while attending a forum. He denied being a member of the CPP-NPA.

Early this year, Echanis petitioned to undergo surgery to remove an inflamed gallbladder at the Philippine Heart Center. The prosecution questioned the petition in the Manila Regional Trial Court.

Ladlad, a director of the Bayan Muna party-list group and board member of Erlda Ilamdane ng mga Detalyadong Labanan Demokrasya or part as interrelated, had served as an NDF consultant.

He was among the many political prisoners requested by the international human rights watchdog Amnesty International to be released during the term of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Ladlad, a member

Legazpi lass is new Mutya

By Aerwin Adlao

(MVE BANNER) (center) is Ginoyan's Mutya ng Pilipinas-International. Other winners were (from left) 1st runner-up Samantha Bass, Mutya ng Pilipinas-Tourism Jacqueline Schubert, 2nd runner-up Jennifer Hachmitzel and Mutya ng Pilipinas-Overseas Communities Ana Bolaños

STORY ON PAGE A7

Texas-based Ana Bolaños won pro-claimed Mutya ng Pilipinas-Overseas Communities. She was chosen from among the eight overseas representatives who joined this year. Bolaños was cast in the crowning finals.

Pengantucan's figure Jauregui, meanwhile, bagged the **Mutya ng Pilipinas-Tourism** award for garnering the most votes in an online poll conducted among members of the Internet pageant portal www.opalitarchil-ville.com.

Shane de Sena of Barobiso was voted Miss Friendship by fellow candidates while Quezon City's Karina Lopez was proclaimed Miss Talent.

Past "Mutya" winners include Miss Asia Alice Celeste Silos, Miss Asia-Pacific Beng Bitanpatayee, Miss Model of the World Gerardi Gregorio and Miss Asia-Pacific Michelle Aldana, movie and TV actresses Teddie Aghayani, Aurora Sevilla, Sheryl to Reyes and Daisy Reyes, and the late Nio Dizon. Last year's winners were Jennvie Quiray and Ann Liebing.

The 2009 Mutya ng Pilipinas coronation night will be telecast on TV-5 on Aug. 16 at 9 p.m. The Filipino Channel (TFC) will beam the program to other countries later.

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OFWs' remains arriving

THE REMAINS OF two of the 8 Overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) who perished in a helicopter crash in Afghanistan last month will arrive in the country today, Vice President Noli de Castro said yesterday.

De Castro, presidential adviser on overseas Filipino workers, said the bodies of Marcelito Hamilla and Leopoldo Jerusico will arrive at 5 p.m. from Kuwait on Qatar Airways.

He said Michael Child, an executive of Texas-based The AEM Group Inc., the Filipinos' employer, had told him the remains of the eight other victims would be sent to a laboratory in Maryland for DNA tests because they were burned beyond recognition.

The eight were Col. to Cariño, Hy Cariño, Simeon de Vega, Modesto Joseph Montano, Marcelino Nuera, Jesse Tolentino, Fernando Valiente and Noli Mola.

Overseas Welfare Welfare Administration (Owwa) Chief Carmelita L. Dimzon said the AEM Group paid for the repatriation of the remains.

She said the employer's insurance company sent representatives to the Philippines to talk to the victims' relatives about death and beneficiaries due them.

De Castro reminded the families of the 10 victims not to talk to persons claiming they could facilitate their claims with the insurance company.

"The fruits of the overseas must wait for official communication from the AEM Group. The families should not talk to anyone else," he said.

Cynthia D. Baldoza and Marilou Ramos

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Bobertsonio: I don't know whether I should be shocked or the alleged $20,000 dinner is so POR for turning gossip into a front-page headline.

gingbgbell: A $20,000 dinner is not "just a simple dinner" to people who live on less than $2 a day.

paulabuan: "Palace: Just a simple dinner"—yeah right.

vinny08: Blame no one. Both are negligent. Esp. Imelda Santos cryin' PYM for dinner in NY just about right.

Jaguar4: Just about right! As a time where the country is suffering because of crisis and a lot of people are starving! How insensitive!

BernalKentan: Para palaasi na ng mga ang gobyerno (More excuses from the government). GMA used to be more one with words either I believed in, but this is just too much.

Bobobobobo: PSBT! Is that's when the Filipinos' taxes are going. Some Presidente ate it.

ryanlevic: Thanks for making it a banner story. I wonder if people buy the excuse that a style compromises paid for it. Who are we kidding?

Palace won't say sorry

From page A1

(about P1 million).

But Romualdez's office in Tacloban City yesterday denied that the lawmaker was the generous soul who picked up the tab. It said it was Romualdez's brother, Daniel, who shouldered the bill.

"That is untrue. It was not [Ormoc mayor Christopher Romualdez] but his brother Daniel who footed the bill," lawyer Nick Rosales, the congressman's legal and media liaison officer, said on the phone.

Rosales said Daniel, an architect living in the United States since 1980s, was among the most successful Filipinos working in New York and among the highest paid in his field.

Representative Romualdez is a nephew of former First Lady Imelda Marcos, one of the richest members of the House of Representatives, and the senior vice president for finance of the ruling Lakas-Kampi-CMD. He is considered one of Ms Arroyo's closest allies.

A gracious invitation

A visibly distressed Romualdez spent a good part of his day fielding questions about... and warding off criticisms against—the dinner at the world famous Le Cirque restaurant during Ms Arroyo's latest visit to the United States.

He said he promised to be Malacañang's "final" statement on the matter. Romualdez maintained that Ms Arroyo and First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo were simply invited to the dinner by Romualdez.

Romualdez said it would have been "impolite" for the First Couple to inquire about the restaurant or the menu.

"It would also [have been] impolite for the First Couple to turn down an invitation graciously made by a distinguished congressman," he said.

"We will not glamorize this issue any further."

'Source was a blog'

But opponents will smarting, Romualdez said he finally located the "source" of the information derailing what Ms Arroyo and her party supposedly had at Le Cirque—a blog.

He said the blog made assumptions about how the bill could have reached close to $20,000, based on the menu.

One commentator making the rounds of blogs pegged the total bill at $19,906 with each item in Wild Golden Osetra Caviar ($1,400) and 11 bottles of King champagne ($5,630).

The widely circulated New York Post, which reported on the dinner, said Ms Arroyo "ordered several bottles of very expensive wine, pushing the dinner's tab up to $20,000."

Romualdez insisted the food that Ms Arroyo and her group had at Le Cirque was "simple" and

GMA unveils P3.5-

From page A1

Accompanying Ms Arroyo in her visit here were Public Works Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., Presidential Adviser on Political Affairs Gabriel Claudio and Deputy National Security Adviser Lito "Chavit" Singson.

Ebdane Hosts Rep. Roger Aldon Salvador Imelda Romualdez Rep. Eduardo Ermita, the project proponents, said the joint venture would give the region long-term economic benefits in terms of investments and livelihood opportunities.

Ms Arroyo, who stayed in the province for more than an hour, left for Pampanga after the ceremonies. She also acclaimed Ermita, who marked the 30th birth anniversary of the late war hero, former Da- ran Hero. Gov. Roger Aldon to

Representative Aldon moved

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GMA urged: Fast so you would know hunger

By Leila B. Salaverria
in Manila
and Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

ARROYO'S BEE WAGON DELLO YES-terday dared President Macapagal-Arroyo to fast so she would know how Filipinos feel when they go hungry.

"My ... challenge the President to go and fast and experience what real hunger means," Bello told reporters, denouncing the reported $20,000 dinner Mr. Arroyo and her party had during her recent US visit.

"This is a President used to the high-style class of consumption, not to touch with reality, especially when it comes to the prevalence of hunger," Bello claimed.

In Congress, Pampanga, Ms. Arroyo's eldest son, Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo, could not explain the silence of Luzon Rep. Martin Romualdez after Mistershang pressed to him on the row who paid for the dinner.

"Well I don't know. That's up to him but that is his call," Mikey said on Romualdez's silence.

"The more fast that he paid for the dinner during the anniversary 1st my parents, I think I should really thank him for that," said Mikey, who joined the President in a visit in Caagua.

Not taxpayer's money

Mikey said Romualdez "can easily afford" to pay for the dinner. He did not elaborate, telling reporters: "You all know that."

"What is important for me is that there's not a single centavo used from taxpayers' money and, secondly, through someone sponsored it, it's not from my family," Mikey said.

The dinner, he said, "was just given in her [Mr Arroyo's] honor."

At the Senate, Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, an administration ally who had previously denounced the dinner as "outlandish" and "extravagant," yesterday said people should not make a big fuss about it.

"It was a mistake in good faith. Nobody walks deliberately into a trap. It was a trap borne by circumstances. It could have been avoided but it wasn't, so we should just accept our mistakes," Santiago told reporters.

"I don't think we should make a big fuss out of it," she said.

United Opposition president and Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay said whether or not taxpayers' money was used to pay for the dinner, it showed the callousness of the administration to the plight of poor Filipinos. With reports from Christine O. Avendaño and Allison B. Lopez

Standards of ethics

Under the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials, government officials are prohibited from accepting gifts or anything of monetary value from any person in the course of their official duties or in connection with any transaction which may be affected by the functions of their office.

Presidential Decree No. 46 punishes public officials from receiving gifts on any occasion, as well as private individuals who give the gifts to officials.

The assigned's law also penalizes receiving gifts or any material benefit from any person for whom the public officer has secured (a situation), or will secure or obtain, any government permit or license. It also bans receiving gifts in connection with any government transaction.

Was it really Romualdez?

Bello wondered whether it was Romualdez who really paid for the dinner or whether he was just allowing Mistershang to use him to take the heat off it.

"He should speak up, and not take the fall for the sins of Malacañang," he said.

Bayan Muna Rep. Teodoro Casiño chided at Romualdez's remark that Mr Arroyo could not be expected to eat at a hotdog stand.

"And why not? In the Presidency as economy dictates that she can't do what most Pinoys in New York do, which is eat at hotdog stands and cheap restaurants?" Casiño said.

Doubtful Cruz

Roman Catholic Archbishop Oscar Cruz, an outspoken critic of Mr Arroyo, scoffed at Malacañang's claim that the dinner in a classy restaurant was a "simple" one and that the reported P1 million tab was an exaggeration.

"Practically everybody knows that the place where they dined and served is definitely not a place where people get a simple dinner," Cruz said.

Had Ms Arroyo wanted a simple dinner, she should have chosen a "simple restaurant," Cruz added. "What is being paid in the restaurant is actually not the food but the ambiance there." With reports from Leila B. Salaverria, Jhona Perambagan and Inquirer Research

FOR MORE than three decades, Le Cirque, the world-famous French restaurant in Manhattan, has wined and dined celebrities, world leaders and glamorous women such as Jackie Onassis, Barbara Walters, Al Pacino, Sophia Loren, Martha Stewart, Woody Allen, Frank Sinatra and Mayor Mike Bloomberg.

without cocoa and champagne.

Threat of lawsuit

In a radio interview, Hernando also said it wasn't out-joking if Ms Arroyo was invited to dine at a closed restaurant.

"If you invite the President to dinner in New York, Cyns won't have it in a hotdog stand, right?" he said.

One lawmaker said the dinner was to celebrate the Arroyos' wedding anniversary.

Even so, militant lawmakers said the supposedly lavish dinner was not only unethical but criminal.

"The law shows government officials are prohibited from accepting gifts, substantial gifts, on any occasion," Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo said in a press conference.

Akbayan Rep. Walden Bello said the dinner was like a service and equivalent to a gift. He said he and other Akbayan members would file corruption charges against Ms Arroyo in the Office of the Ombudsman.

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day. We have a war on poverty and problems on global recession. We cannot unite so that we will not be defeated by world crisis," she said.

Ms Arroyo distributed P30,000 worth of gift checks to each beneficiary of Oleopus Rosid Biotechno and Agribusiness Modernization.

She said she would continue supporting Ilocos Norte in the same manner that the leaders of the so-called 71Tc provinces (or recipients of the tobacco excise tax under Republic Act No. 7171) had been protecting Ilocanopanue in northern Luzon.

Ms Arroyo promised to assist the province in education and health care.

"We will continue to build grade school buildings near the homes of our schoolchildren so they won't have a reason not go to school," she said. Cristina Arandia, Inquirer Northern Luzon

2ND VISIT President Macapagal-Arroyo receives warm welcome from her Cabalen upon her arrival to witness the oath-taking of the Lakas-Kampi coalition members and supporters in Dau-Elos, Pampanga. It is her 22nd visit in her hometown since February 2009.

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INQUIRER

OPINION

Outrageous spending

NO MATTER WHICH WAY YOU CUT IT, THE EXPENditure of about $20,000 or almost P1 million on a dinner at the posh Le Cirque Restaurant in New York for President Macapagal-Arroyo's group is wrong. It is utterly crass and insensitive of the President's party to spend an amount that could have fed 1,000 families at a time when 3.7 million families are experiencing involuntary hunger.

EDITORIALS The lavish spending came at a time when the nation was mourning the death of former President Corazon Aquino, the embodiment of voluntary simplicity and frugality in personal and government spending.

Press Secretary Cerge Remonde said that it was a simple dinner. Let's see how simple it was. The New York Post reported that five servings of Osetra caviar and five of California Osetra caviar were ordered, at a total cost of $1,980. Twenty-five sets of the chef's seasonal menu were served at a cost of $1,450 and 25 sets of chef's tasting menu with wine pairing at $4,800.

The appetizers alone cost $714, or about P35,000. They included lobster salad, sautéed Gulf shrimp, soft shell crab tempura, wild burgundy escargot and carabao of foie gras. Two sets of main courses were ordered at a total cost of $1,462 or about P72,000. These included Dover sole, prime dry aged strip steak, saddle of lamb, purgatorio of black cod and halibut poached in coconut milk.

Also served: tableside lar two-seven dozen whole roasted fish and three whole roasted chickens. When brought the bill up was an order for 13 bottles of Krug champagne costing $5,610. Total cost, including tax and service charge, was $19,886.

A report by Isidro Mangahas of the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism yesterday said that Ms Arroyo's declared net worth more than doubled from P66.6 million in 2001 to P143.54 million in 2008, for a growth rate of 114 percent. People are asking: Did Ms Arroyo pay for the lavish dinner from her "machine/kuwarta pocket," or did someone else pick up the tab? Here, the statements of her spokesperson are conflicting.

Even Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, one of Ms Arroyo's avid defenders, was scandalized by the "unwarranted and outlandish" spending. She said she did not attend the dinner because she was suffering from a chronic fatigue syndrome. She advised those who know to tell who really paid for the dinner, how much it cost and who attended it and promise that it will not happen again. It sounds like a reasonable suggestion. Instead of issuing convoluted explanations, obfuscating bad luck and the whole truth because sooner or later, the truth will out.

Cashing in on Cory

EVERYONE, POLITICIANS AND GOVERNMENT officials chief among them, seems to want to cash in on the Aquino name after the interments of former Presidents Corazon Aquino, icon of Philippine democ- 1905.

Some urged that Ms Aquino be proclaimed a national hero. Others insisted her to be declared a saint. Sen. Miriam Defensor, a presidential candidate, proposed that Edsa be renamed Corazon Aquino Avenue, only to withdraw his suggestion hours later after he remembered that Edsa has special significance as the highway where the Edsa People Power Revolution took place in February 1986.

The suggestions were not limited to the late President. Some suggested that Rep. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III run for vice president or president and that Kris Aquino run for senator. Noynoy immediately put a damper on this, saying that he was not running either for president or vice president and that he would discourage Kris from running for senator.

People should go slow on making suggestions that would cash in on the Aquino name and earn publicity for them, especially since the nation is still on an extended period of mourning for the late former President. In the case of Noynoy's political plans, let the development dictate what should happen. Cory Aquino was called upon by the developments in 1985-86 to run for president. What former, Noynoy may later be persuaded to run for president to ensure that a "protector" of Ms Arroyo would not succeed her after she steps out of Malacañang in 2010?

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Deciphering signs

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

"FOR ONE MILD-SHINING MOMENT / THERE was Camelot," The Broadway song line came to mind as kids trailed yellow ribbons at former President Corazon Aquino's funeral. "Will (she) become another of Asia's political widows now diverse, as in Bangladesh, Haiti and Sri Lanka," wondered The Economist.

No, Columbia University's Sheila Coronel wrote in The Wall Street Journal "her ultimate political legacy will continue to be discussed ... Even in death, it is likely Cory Aquino will remain the symbol of Filipino hope."

Many who slammed Aquino, then and now, recalled rallies in the decade. "Filipinos expected miracles to happen during his presidency," sociologist Randy David recalled. "The poor expected instant relief from ... poverty. The middle classes expected a renewed and functioning democracy ... overnight. After 20 years of oppression, Filipinos wanted freedom without the attendant responsibilities of citizenship."

So, where do we go from here?

Dean and President Maragtas Amante, the feast herself diminished at the private funeral mass before crowding protestors. He told their displeasing what messages, if any, did these waves of people send in their fervent homage for Cory.

"The world embraced Edsa 1 in 1986," the President continued at Ubungan ng mga Pasaan on Feb. 22. "The world televised Edsa 2 in 2001. The world will not forget us Edsa 3. Instead, (it'll) condemn the Philippines as a country whose political system is hopelessly unstable."

The screen of gratitude and affection for Cory was not Edsa 3. Perhaps, an unplanned but remembered rolling "referendum," became indelible in Rina Jimenez-David's memory.

People Power is not just about Filipino-bing dictators. It includes arresting reforms peacefully. Mahatma Gandhi's 1930 march to the sea saw the oppressive salt tax scrubbed. People Power I can celebrate a life poured out for others that "multiplied" the Edsa 1 spirit.

"Now (today) we note it was a Cory who led the first post-Marcos government (with) two elections; government power," recalls UP professor Emil Bengzon. He presided in Philippine politics without being debarred. "In her we saw a glimpse of our noblest selves and learned there are two times, in our sad history, when the good guys finished first."

The Palace, meanwhile, struck a business-as-usual posture. In language, the President handed out P500 million for school repairs. She may bid for an election post there some say. If the Cassandras is best handed before 2010, why she could become the Philippines' Indira Gandhi.

From the grave, Cory may have slammed that option shut. Aquino opposed tinkering with the Constitution – and possible extension of terms – before 2010. In the 52 percent of Filipinos, surveys show, "The popular sentiment is not to go against her wishes," noted Cardinal Jaime Sin. Ugnayan ng Barangay.

In the lower house, Arroyo's cause-ends discuss over House Resolution 1109. That would force three-fourths of the House to pass changes to the Charter, without the Senate. "Nobody wants to touch it anymore," Quezon City Rep. Marisa Belmonte said.

The human wave in yellow is identified with Cory's legacy. Imelda's Amanda Imelda retorts. That includes hospitals and hospital clinics and "limits to terms of office. Read the rosary' lips, Dorcelle suggested. "Imparting with the rules means the risk of people losing the rosary again, as in 1986.

Cory provided the example for the transfer of power according to constitutional rules. Indeed, she ranked with nuns in history from any other school but example, Edmund Burke once said.

In the snap election, Aquino hammered on a simple theme. She'd be the exact opposite of Ferdinand Marcos. Even her plain dresses. The iconoclast noted, contrasted with "the stylish Imelda, who was still stalling the freedom of the presidential palace with frocks and furs and shoes, shoes, shoes."

Like it or not, today's "presidentiables" sense that Filipinos take their measure against the standards Cory set. Among them, do any feel disappointed being the exact opposite of Aquino?

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Cory embodied "values that endure even after the man leaves us. Those gave her an enduring strength of character which Marcos, rebel comrades, and opportunists in the Filipino people-endowed insisted," Coronel adds.

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"By moulding not the great desires of men, we find our value is the movement of God's plan made manifest in us," wrote Fr. Catalino Arevalo who gave the homily at Cory's funeral. "It is through the instrumentality of others that we come to bring content with the plan of God ... Her calls us, not only by narration or command but by event, by what happens in history."

"You have been to interpret the appearances of the day," the Master from Galilee once said. "Hypocrites! You can you not interpret signs of the times?"

(E-mail: juanlmercado@gmail.com)

Two more

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I'VE GOT A COUPLE MORE REASONS WHY I believe Noynoy should run for president. It comes from what I've been hearing people say for some time.

The first is the answer I get when I ask people whom they'll vote for as president. It is, "I don't know," or "I don't care." Some go on to say, "I probably won't vote the issue." Or among those who still vote for the first time, "I probably won't register."

I myself, when asked that question, which I repeatedly saw in the US last June, say, "I'm not there yet. Before I can even think of that question, I have to think of two others, which are: One, are we going to have (presidential elections)? And, two, will the votes be counted? Only then can I ask myself whom to vote for. But if you press me, I absolutely do not know. The electorate have little to choose and base on common candidates. The undercutting have only more money and are, well, little deserving. I don't know whom to support. I don't even know if I'll vote this year."

Noynoy for president solves all those problems.

It assures elections will push through. Or specifically presidential elections will push through. Malacañang tries to derail it by any ruse, the public will see it as a disenfranchisement of Cory's son. That presumes of course Noynoy runs. Of course he will. There is no doubt about it. Malacañang sings, dishes or means around with the election, and it will threatened the People Power throne at Cory's funeral. Heaven had no sorrow than the Filipino host of Arc laid to rest. Hell will have no fury than the mixed the Filipino host of Arroyo scorned.

Same principle with massive cheating, which the Smartmatic machines threaten to wreak, as demonstrated by Gen Lapuzan et al. The one thing that announced the first People Power was shootings – at the camp who desist of 1986. Three weeks after it happened, People Power intact, willed to reinstate by the opening up fury of a people. Forget the military rebels, they merely lit the fuse. The shooting was the shadowy government power," recalls UP professor Emil Bengzon. He presided in Philippine politics without being debarred. "In her we saw a glimpse of our noblest selves and learned there are two times, in our sad history, when the good guys finished first."

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Artist protesters should work to revoke EO 236

THE EXCLUSIVE LOOK AT THE 2009 NATIONAL Artist Awards would be unveiled if only the presiding artists acknowledge that the groups free to nominate candidates for National artists also have the power to withdraw nominations. Composed of the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP), the Philippine Academy of Arts and Culture (PACA) and the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP). The prerogative to nominate "recipients of honors" of "exceptional prestige" within the "Order of Precedence" is also recognized in Section 3, "Chief among" by Executive Order 236, "Honors Code of the Philippines"), which was issued by President Macapagal-Arroyo on Sept. 19, 2005. EO 236 states that the Honors Committee, composed of the executive secretary, the presidential legal counsel, chief of the Presidential Management Staff, presidential assistant for internal affairs, chief of presidential protocol, and DFA chief of protocol, and is not only to "clarify and resolve issues concerning nominations for recipients of honors bestowed, as well as of Presidential Awards." Under this EO, the committee "may authorize relevant department(s) or government agencies to maintain close coordination with the Secretariat to process nominations for Honors and/or Presidential Awards."

* * *

Obviously, the Palace considers that the National Artist Awards fall under this EO's remit. In past years, President Macapagal-Arroyo made her decision on whom to name National Artists based on nominations from the NCCA-CCP committees, the Honors Committee, to screen nominations from renowned persons and institutions and draw up a short list of candidates—only individuals and institutions. In 2006, Muslim businessman Abdulmari Imao was a nominee of this committee. I understand that this year, when the committee saw that certain categories were not filled by the NCA-CCP committees, it unanimously added Lt. Gen. Pura Santillan-Castrence, columnist Nina Moreno and architect Francisco Mañosa. Abueva, who's also NCAA executive director, didn't pass

Political Tidbits

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

through the joint NCCA-CCP committee's screening process; this Honors Committee moreover, stated her upon the recommendation of renowned theater and communications personalities Antoni B. Rosete, National Artist Alejandro Roces, Inst. Felipino magpie and various local Tondino multi-artist groups Inst. Salvacion L. Perez. The latter voted one of the "most culture-literate" by governors in the country" cited here last previous breakfast (commonly) from the NCCA's "national state getting" Abueva's exchange.

* * *

Jersey, by temperament, have always been a jealous lot, and over the decades Filipino artists have come to regard the National Artist Awards as their own domain, promoting what they regard as the unexclusive influence of presidential prerogative into these awards. The artists think these prerogatives should be above question and that presidents ought to avoid the "appearance of impropriety" that the latter have refused to give up this power. President Ramos created an entirely new category called "Historical Literature" and named historian Carlos Quirino as its first National Artist. President Estrada named Nick Joaquin, Carlos Quirino, even though both panelists were not in the same committee's list and neither president had any NCA to back them up. The artists protesting the abolition of the Honors Committee this year are miffed by the appointment of the EO so they simply refuse to recognize the Honors Committee's authority to effect recommendations.

* * *

It's no secret that the local artistic world is bound up in fight, jealous cliques and gangs, e.g., the "Manila-ista cliques," the "UP gang," etc., and perhaps no one realized this better than the presidents. It appears that GMA decided on the events that several years after her decision to name Dr. Alejandro Roces in 2003 as National Artist for Literature drew protest from some artists' groups. Interestingly, EO 236 stated that the honorees were chosen by consultations with members of non-government officials, including the 'BC-CA then headed by Evelyn Ponsig and Maria Fe-na Ramona. Yet there was no one from the NCCA or CCP about the EO then. Today some NCCA or CCP officials joined the protest against the CCP Board in questioning the Honors Committee's authority to nominate National Artists, but critics this EO creating their hand-picked team is nothing but a new president to "pick a committee" out of the line of the land and the Honors Committee's nominations can be defended in the Supreme Court. Instead of symbolically burning their medals as a protest (and they also burn their medals), and possibly get arrested, what the protesters should also do is to pressure Congress to pass a better-defined National Artist Awards law. A congressional investigation is welcome.

* * *

Of the year's five Honors nominees, Abueva and Capitan have drawn severe political flak from anti-Arroyo artists for their presidential honors in 2003, 2004, respectively. Abueva, who was also declared in NCCA chair "Alma Labrador. As Cecile told media, "Pinagpapatok ko ang ulo ni Gloria" through her grassroots cultural-ism giving. She's also trying up the wrath of the Marcoses (Irene and Imee Marcos-Manotoc) for her role in the 1986 "snatching" of Ferdinand Marcos' presidential papers and her husband Federico's anti-Marcos activities during their 13-year exile in the U.S. during the martial law years. They also had the protests when Imelda Marcos sought to have her medal of the arts revoked by Abueva, who is in try to resist the Marcoses, in a three-hour talk with Roberson in a New York hotel, to stop their anti-Marcos activities and return to the Philippines where she was said to have laughed at the prospect of Cecile's heading the CCP. But they did not like and scrutinized their activities and the Aida Brothers.

Learning about the MCW

At Large

Rina Jimenez-David

IN TOWN ON A STUDY VISIT IS A GROUP OF PHILIPPINE parliamentarians headed by Senator Pia Cayetano, chair of the Committee on Women, Children, Family Development and Gender Equality. The delegation is here to talk with their counterparts in both the Senate and the House of Representatives, as well as with women's NGOs and the executive department agencies, on the ratifying, drafting and passage of gender-sensitive laws and policies, most especially the Magna Carta of Women (MCW).

The MCW, which was filed in the Senate and sponsored into law by President Macapagal-Arroyo on Friday, Aug. 14, carrying more than four years of consultations, meetings, lobbying activities and negotiations among different women's groups, and still, legislators and women's groups.

But revision the law is just about to be signed, it is already breaking new ground, pitching the customary and sacrosanct of foreign observers, as exemplified by the visiting Pan Timorese lawmakers.

Other members of the delegation include secretary of Belizarian Osorio Rosales, Adriano Bonifacio, Brenda Rodriguez, Texas de Carvalho, Maria Rosa de Carmen, Inês Martin de Conceição, Maria Dulce Almeida and Filomena Maria Belo, assisting the delegation, particularly in providing interpretation are staff members of the Gender Resources Center (GRC): Brenda Borges and Ana Paula Fonseca da Costa.

The Timor Leste legislators are here under the auspices of the UN Development Program and Unifem, and are being hosted by the national women's organization Filipina.

* * *

It was my happy task yesterday to attend the session on the MCW, sharing the highlights of the **legislation and the process followed in gathering feedback on the proposed bill. Bailey sponsors** in the Senate, and guiding it through the legislative mill.

The talk also gave me a chance to revisit the events surrounding the eventual passage of the law, which, despite the support of the NCRFW, the GRC, the last-minute surprises and filibuster, and the unfathomable inaction employed by some critics. Indeed, as I told our fellows, one of the sharpest lessons I learned in the course of lobbying for the MCW was to never underestimate the opposition, and be prepared for any eventuality.

Not worth noting was the need to head with—but never yield to—the exigencies of political reality and expediency in pursuing the many champions of a legislative measure.

Of course, the work of ensuring gender equality in practice as well as on paper is never truly over, aside from ensuring that women's voices are heard and included in the crafting of the implementing Rules and Regulations, we also need to continue working with women, down to the barangay level, on raising their awareness of the various gender issues and of the rights that they have under the law. We also need to work constantly on the empowerment of women, in particular in increasing their participation in community and national affairs.

* * *

BOOKING the group over lunch was Sen. Pia Cayetano, author of the first of nine bills emanating from the Senate that were eventually consolidated into SB 2396. Cayetano, as the co-president of the non-partisan organization of women parliamentarians of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), encouraged the visitors, especially the women, to get more involved in the IPU, citing the assistance the international body could give to them in the crafting of bills, in addition to the opportunity to network with legislators all over the world, but also in transforming one's orientation and focus on pressing international issues.

There was also a very interesting dialog on the current situation of conflict between East Timor and the Philippines. In East Timor, members of Parliament are even more effective in such the same way as our own party-list system, but with members who are nominated by a number of sectors and voted on. Senator Pia, for the complicated task of explaining the labyrinthine operations of local political parties, and explaining why she chose to run as a "party candidate" in her last campaign.

* * *

I SHARED from the group after lunch, as they were on their way to the Senate to observe the Senate plenary session, pay a courtesy call on Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile, and then participate in a dialogue encounter with Sen. Sonny Madrigal, chair of the Senate committee on youth, women and family relations.

It was Madrigal who led the charge in the Senate to get the MCW passed, despite the many and unexpected obstacles and often frustrating hindrances, such as critics who assured the word "gender" equated with a bill that was all about gender equality.

Madrigal recently spoken with Senator Madrigal recently, but I hope someone brings up her recent pronouncement about her presidential candidacy. One question I would have brought up: How does she reconcile her stance with that of the archdiocese of the Catholic bishops given her vigorous defense of the MCW?

Then again, perhaps it's the bishops who should be asked: What did you have against the MCW anyway? What is it about gender equality that you find so threatening?

* * *

TOMORROW, on the episode of my East Timorese visitors, it is visit to the house of Representatives, for Bonifacio's one-hour call on Speaker Prospero Pichay and a dialogue interaction with the members of the House Committee on Women and Gender Equality, chaired by Quezon City Rep. Nanette Castelo-Daza.

The delegation will also be meeting with officials of Miriam College, of the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women (which, under the chairmanship of Remedios Rikken, is also the commission on Women), and of Isang Bagsak organization of women in sectors since the battles over the Filipina Carlo were fought and won.

Losing someone

IF I WERE A LICENSED THERAPIST (I SPECIALIZE ON grief, that comes 'I'm not, I can only give it a friendly [illegible] advice. I guess you can't get 'grief-trained' from reading books anyway. But you need to have "grief-smarts" when death comes knocking at your door.

I enjoy the music of a senior colleague. He sits opposite to my table and he occasionally plays music that I'm still phone hand enough for us to.

At present, he's department in June I guess he loves music.

Once I rode with him during a long business trip to Pangasinan. He had his iPod docked and I was playing songs on shuffle. The songs were from different genres, and I knew most of them—but there were just families—or perhaps. The type I'd tune in to.

It was getting late and he was the one behind the wheel. Our boss was with us and had fallen asleep—after instructing me to stay up for the long drive. It was long past coffee hours already—10 p.m. To my right, another colleague had also fallen asleep. I was left to entertain myself with my senior colleague and myself up. I told him that I listened to the same genre of music that he liked. Maybe he pretended to be entertained in what I was saying. Maybe I was pretending to be interested in a conversation. But really it had been a long day for all of us. The music he was playing kept us up.

Music is a powerful instrument. It brings people together. We realize that we are able to someone if we listen to the same music. Cultures become richer through music and dance. Emotions are amplified when "linked" to music. Commemorative music can recall, and just like scents do, they bring back to life memories.

How could I not be familiar with my office mate's music? My late brother used to play them loud in our household. How could I not know the music that my brother used to dance to? How could I not know the titles of those songs I have gotten to love myself?

My office mate knows his cell phone—to his table, and his clients and partners—and if not time to time. Invited to sing a song in a song my brother used to render the strife of our home through its rhythm and beats.

My brother loved music a lot. He saved up his money to buy his subwoofers and headphones. He was cocky—he told me he was ahead of his time and that he was already listening to songs that are yet to become popular. Indeed he was. Because [illegible] years ago, we were already listening to songs that are still playing on radio these days.

Yup, we listened to Glo Bitsmore, Saidebrad, and Coldplay. Yup, we enjoyed early music by Bjork and Enya. Hikaru. We searched for the titles of 1970's from the Blues, retro and even to contemporary new music like Sting, and we appreciated different genres of music—from Gary Valenciano to Chicane, from Depeche Mode to Utah Saint, from Justine Timberlake to Jollibeats. Yup, he loved attending concerts, even underground ones—he collected CDs and got them signed by the artists. Yup, if there was something unrevealed to me before, I learned it by the time of auditory torture.

And yes I cannot forget a bit because there are some memories are awakened. I cannot forget because if there is anything in my brain that's full genius, it's my auditory cortex.

It has been more than three years since my brother passed away. Still, my brother's face time of fighting cancer are imprinted already on my mind. Like an awakened dry soul. I remember a family dinner in our house. My brother was already preparing for meditation—and I'm pretty sure my brother hated it. It'll be didn't, I did. Because I was sure that he would rather listen to Deft Punk or Chemical Brothers. And it was pretty crazy for me when that CD was also played during his funeral. But I guess music and electronics would be too vulgar for a funeral. My sibling's music preferences are to my liking. I would have gone home whenever I hear it being played again.

If I am saying anything at all—if you're trying to heal yourself by forgetting, forget it. Because music is one thing that makes you remember. And if you pray to God to make you dead, He was gone you had, but you will still smell the same flowers in summer—he's dressed. And if you think that by getting will make you fine again, I'm sorry forgetting is impossible unless you are suffering from organic damage.

Grief is medicine itself, says William Cowper.

Grieving has made me a little wiser, but I have aged me too much. Days seem to have become months, even years. And there are a lot of days that I feel that I have to die of so many memories. But really, an agent is never content more. Because if you think that suppressing them helps you clip away from a thing that haunts you, you are wrong, you only climb that thing deeper in the luggage of emotions that burdens you.

Nobody can really forget—because our memories feeds our souls. Memories are who we are.

If there is something I know, we all just have to move on some day. We all just have to bear that cross that weighs us down until we have become calloused to it and feel stronger in carrying it.

Some grieve longer than others. Some make you jealous of how easily they are able to remove their grief. But do not compare yourself with others, because we are all dicks telling different beats, and we don't know when our clock hands will stop moving.

Here is to you, you who have lost someone. I know you are wandering around because you can't find yourself, because it feels that someone took a part of you with her. Her part of you is her.

CATHERINE PERALTA, 22, is a trainer in a cosmetic company.

Young Blood

Catherine Peralta

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twenty-something and below.—Ed.

Notice to Youngblood Contributors:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Limitations to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

They Said

Height of stupidity

"It is the height of stupidity for our country to devote our lands to feed rich countries while being dependent on importation for our people's food needs."

—Party-list member Rafael Mariano

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Why GMA's ratings are down

LETTERS

DESPITE ALL THE EXPENSIVE FULL-page newspaper ads and TV radio infomercials dished out by the propaganda machinery of the Arroyo administration to the tune to the State of the Nation Address, and despite all the efforts of the government to defend and project her in a good and positive light, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo still suffers from unprecedented unpopularity, mistrust and dissatisfaction ratings from which she may not be able to recover until her last day in office, that is, if she stays down to all six Ans 30 (KIV).

GMA and her propagandists should well realize that the negative ratings and the Filipino public's negative perception of her and her administration are rooted deeply and cannot be removed simply by a barrage of propaganda.

GMA's negative ratings and public image are a consequence of cumbersome factors, including the legitimacy issue spawned by the Hello Garci scandal, the sting of unresolved big ticket corruption and bribery controversies, the lack of transparency and accountability in the government's penchant for lying and official cover up instead of being public and transparent in governmental matters, the resistant use of public resources and public funds as 'ningas kugon' for political allies and cronies, profligate spending on numerous non-productive foreign jaunts with unprecedented frequency, and the shameless attempts to perpetrate the reign of greed of this administration through a constitution assembly.

—FERDIE T. SESAL
14 Green Leaves St.,
Capitol Green Village,
Tandang Sora, Quezon City

Moral corruption afflicts nation, but do moral guardians care?

THE INQUIRER EDITORIAL OF JULY 28 so eminently pointed the true state of the nation. Plainer than financial corruption, moral corruption afflicts the Arroyo administration at the highest levels. Indeed, Mayon must have studied a bigger host, but Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has run away with and claimed our nation's soul!

But where are our moral guardians? Except for a few bishops, the Catholic hierarchy has chosen to speak no evil, hear no evil and see no evil. This is the way they have exercised their prophetic role.

Sad to note, our church leaders are also answerable for the moral corruption of our country.

—CONNIE V. BORGIAS,
138 E. Rodriguez St.,
San Juan City

Malicious lies vs Philippine National Red Cross

WE WRITE IN REFERENCE TO THE COLUMN titled "A final Note" by Ilona Jimenez-David. (Inquirer, 7/28/09)

In the second part of that column, she gave space to what we assume was a letter sent to her supposedly by the chairman City Sheriffs Group (sic) [secretary of the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC)].

We find it unfortunate that David decided to run her column without getting our side. Had she done so, perhaps, she would have been better informed regarding the issues raised in that letter by the "Concerned Red Cross volunteers."

The "Concerned Red Cross volunteers" are doing the Red Cross movement in the Philippines—and even the world—a great disservice by spreading malicious lies against the organization which they claim to serve.

First, it is not true that members of the PNRC were "not consulted about the bill and were in fact even threatened by the Board of Governors (BOG) involved with the "Chapter by-laws" (it a special meeting held July 1, 2009. In that meeting, possible changes to the PNRC charter were proposed. Regional meetings will be held from August to September to consult with the chapters on the changes in the charter as proposed by the BOG, and to gather proposals from the chapters regarding possible changes to the charter. Moreover, Senate Bill 2203, as with all proposed laws, is discussed in public hearings and a copy of the law may be obtained through the Senate's website for free.

Second, we would like to inform David that in the PNRC, as well as in all other Red Cross Societies all over the world, and even the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), authority emanates from above BODs. Moreover, one of the seven principles of the Red Cross movement is that it is a unified and is defined thus: "There can be only one Red Cross or one Red Crescent Society in any one country. It must be open to all. It must carry on its humanitarian work throughout its territory."

In light of this, the "Concerned Red Cross volunteers" broadcasts as ill-advised vows that the proposed "new law would be "stripping the chapters of all their rights and prerogatives" and would "further consolidate the already autocratic control and domination by the Red Cross board of governors and the national headquarters." As such, this group proposes that the powers as well as control over finances should remain with the chapters. This would not only run counter to long-established rules and principles of the Red Cross movement all over the world, it would in effect break up the PNRC into its component chapters, in support of which a proposal, it is the "Concerned Red Cross volunteers" who are weakening the movement.

—EMMANUEL H. PANG,
secretary general,
Philippine National Red Cross,
Bonifacio Drive, Port Area,
PO Box 280 Manila 2002

Aerial spraying: 'getting curiouser and curiouser'

I WAS STILL IN COLLEGE WHEN RACHEL Carson came out with her "provocative" book "Silent Spring." The story is about pesticides and the environment. The word picture she painted disturbed most of us, in the sense that our pesticides are making us sick and poisoning somethings, made it into our scientist's special project. So we dug deep into the subject, researched cited references and rallied up some of the experts interviewed by the author.

That was about 40-years ago. And up to this day, as the book and its theme are still relevant, the standing about pests and diseases of crops and their effectives control by pesticides, the "Silent Spring" has not happened anywhere in the farming world.

On July 9, 2009, I read in a local newspaper about a public forum with Dr. Allan Dizmon of the Department of Health and University of the Philippines to present his findings on aerial spraying. I decided to attend it.

As early as 8 a.m., I had lined up with other registrants. When my turn came, I was asked to what group I belonged. I said I did not represent any group and just came to listen to Dr. Dizmon's report. The lady at the desk told me she could not allow me to enter because the forum was only for those groups that were invited.

I argued that it was advertised as a public forum. But the DOH and UP were public offices and Dr. Dizmon was a government official; I just happened to be an entomology graduate of UP Los Baños who used to work with a banana plantation. I was just interested.

I sought Dr. Dizmon, introduced myself as a banana grower who wanted to hear his presentation. Upon knowing I was not a member of any of the invited group, he told me he could not accommodate me because he was just a guest. But if I had the time to wait until the end of the forum, he would attend to me personally. Perhaps sensing my disappointment, the organizer from the Interfaith Development Intervention (IDIS), the local group calling for the banning of aerial spraying, approached me and suggested I attend the next forum or just get a copy of Dr. Dizmon's report from the DOH.

At this point, I felt I was just wasting my time. I told myself, maybe there was something they didn't want any "contractors" to hear. Anyway, to make a long story short, he dismissed me by saying he did not know who I was and, maybe, I was just angry for the banana plantation group.

The next day, I read in the news that the "banded" groups in the forum were from Call-san and not from Caraycan where the supposed study was conducted.

Well, as my favorite "Fish Pauline" inspector used to say, this controversy on aerial spraying is " getting curiouser and curiouser."

—ALBERT ESPIOLA FRIAS,
27 Dart Supplies, Diamond Village,
Lamang, Davao City

DBP

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2. That the Development Bank of the Philippines reserves the right to reject any and all bids, waive any defect therein and accept the bid most advantageous to the Bank.
3. That no bid may be withdrawn after the opening of bids, and all bids submitted shall remain valid for a period of not less than one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the opening date of the bids.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND INSPECTION OF PROPERTIES, PLEASE CONTACT:

ASSET MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

It's time to promote 'PAT' in Quezon City now

WITH THE PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY calling for good governance both at the national and local levels, there is a proposed ordinance in Quezon City, which seeks to promote people's participation, accountability and transparency (PAT) in local government.

Inspired by the experience of the Naga City People's Council, Councilor Bobo Bautista filed in August last year an ordinance that would create the People's Council of Quezon City. The ordinance will also allow other task forces, councils and special bodies, including legislative ones organized in the city, to ensure that all fabrics of civil society and the private sector are already represented. Through the People's Council, the people will have the opportunity to exercise their right to public information and to participate in the social and political decision-making processes.

The ordinance, once passed and approved, will be a true people's ordinance because it has gone through a series of public consultations ... conducted in the communities ... during which inputs from various sectors were considered as part of the process of improving the ordinance.

The ordinance is now being readied for second reading, in which it was reversed for various enhancement. Task from 4M and the Council of Several Representatives humbly ask our city councilors and Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. to pass and approve the measure. We would like to ensure that the city's ability to deliver services, which has improved under the current administration of Mayor Belmonte and Vice Mayor Herbert Bautista, will undergo more improvements, with the people participating in the identification of programs and allocation of the city budget. The measure, once approved, will also safeguard that whatever the Belmonte administration has built will be sustained. It will be another landmark substance and a legacy of this current set of city officials to the people of Quezon City.

Through the 142 ordinances, the people will become active partners in the governance of the city's affairs, by promoting accountability and transparency. This will lead to a more effective delivery of basic services, the basic characteristic of good governance, if we can't make it happen here, namely at the national level, we can start at the local level. From Naga City to Quezon City, this ordinance will make possible the making of completely a Quality City.

—LD CUNAFE,
convenor, Task Force PIT,
executive director, Center for Popular Empowerment (CPE),
vice chair-internal, Council of Sectoral Representatives to the City Development Council,
61-B Mariyaga St. Barangay Pinyahan, QC

Cowing CHR's De Lima with fabricated charges

CHAIR LEILA DE LIMA OF THE COMMISSION on Human Rights (CHR) has described as domestic job the filing of kidnapping and coup d'etat charges against 37 soldiers in the Oakwood mutiny in 2003.

The CHR chair is not alone in her predicament. Activists and leaders of mass organizations accused of the heinous subversion crimes have been subjected to fabricated charges by the authorities in an obvious attempt to silence or intimidate them from criticizing the government. The use of the legal process as a ploy to intimidate critics is fast becoming prevalent in this country and the Arroyo administration is happy to be the pioneer in the use of this evil and disgusting strategy. We cite six as an example the false charges that this regime filed against the late Bp. Crispin Beltran after the declaration of the unconstitutional state of emergency in 2006.

Another example is the unsubstantiated accusation against five members of progressive party-list groups, known as the Batasan 5. The Batasan and Batasan 5 cases, of course, were both thrown out by the Supreme Court. We can also cite the cases of Bayan leader and Dr. Tapia Jr. The accused in these cases had to spend long periods in detention before their cases were finally dismissed by the court for lack of evidence. Other recent examples are the arrest and inciting to rebellion cases filed against 27 activists in Southern Tagalog (27 27), which the prosecutor's office in Batangas dismissed for lack of probable cause; and the multiple murder and multiple frustrated murder charges against 72 activists also in the Southern Tagalog region (57 72), which the RTC Mindoro pinpointed as manufactured cases.

These cases might have been dismissed but the annoyance and anxiety they caused the accused had to some extent affected the accused's ability to efficiently pursue their causes.

We therefore sympathize with CHR Chair De Lima. The prosecutors of the Davao Death Squad are now using the legal process to prevent her from serving at the truth to the same manner that the Arroyo administration has subverted the judicial process in its attempt to curtail the rights of social activists and individuals involved in basic mass causes. Recall, that this will not deter the CHR chair in her quest for the truth, in the same way that the Arroyo regime has not been able to easily silence activist victims of false criminal charges filed by its Arroyo's minions.

—BENJAMIN ALMORIN JR.,
Pro Labor Legal Assistance Center,
10-E E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave., QC

SPO1 DANIEL Malab is promoted to SPO2 by PNP Director General Jesus Versoza and PNP Deputy Chief for Administration Geary Barias during Monday's flag ceremony in Camp Crame. Malab served as one of nine honor guard in the nine-hour funeral procession of former President Corazon Aquino from Manila Cathedral to Manila Memorial Park in Parañaque.

PNP HEROES GALLERY Former PNP chiefs Pacifico Lacson and Fidel Ramos meet during the opening rites of the Heroes Gallery at the Philippine National Police Museum in Camp Crame on Monday. Behind them is PNP Director General Jesus Versoza.

Cop in Cory funeral gets spot promotion

From page A1

stood on the same track for about five hours on Aug. 3, when Aquino's remains were transferred from La Salle Green Hills to Manila Cathedral.

Other escorts

The AFP found three equally deserving of praise. Together with Private First Class Antonio Umboria, Airman 2nd Class Gener Lagundaon and Petty Officer 3 Edgardo Bedeljesan (the three guards who served at the funeral march), Sens. Ramon Revilla Jr. and Benigno Aquino III received medals and plaques of recognition yesterday.

"We would also like to recognize not just these soldiers, but all those involved in the event. They have earned distinction here as not only the cheerleaders but for the whole AFP," AFP Vice Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Rodrigo Maclang said during the awarding rites.

Aside from the spot promotion, PO2 Malab also received a PNP Efficiency Medal (Medalya ng Kasanayan) and an initial deposit of P10,000 in a new account with the Public Safety Savings and Loan Association Inc., a credit facility for police officers.

PNP Director General Jesus Versoza also gave Malab a new car. All seven gained.

Malab and the three other escorts from the AFP earlier received P50,000 each from a group of businessmen and Agapito "Boy" Aquino, brother-in-law of the late former President.

Driver hailed too

The PNP is also considering the promotion of more than 20 other members of the PNP honor guard who took part in the funeral line, Versoza said.

Also yesterday, Sen. Ma. Lajpid filed a resolution commending not only the honor guard in the Aquino cortege but also the truck driver, Jerry Ortinez, for carrying out his task "with accomplishment."

Ortinez drove the flatbed truck for 22 km, inching his way through hundreds of thousands of mourners, from Manila Cathedral in Intramuros to Manila Memorial Park in Parañaque.

He was also the driver who brought Aquino's remains from La Salle Green Hills to the cathedral on Aug. 3.

Employed by Harbour Link Transport Inc. which pays him P680 a day, Ortinez earlier remained in an Intramuros interview: "I will never forget these two days when I had the privilege to serve the most loved woman in the Philippines." *With a report from Christine Avendaño*

Twitter, not coffee, is now day's first stop

From page A1

6 a.m. to check his work e-mail and his Facebook and Twitter accounts. The two boys, Cole and Erik, start each morning with text messages, video games and Facebook.

The new routine quickly became a source of conflict in the family, with Disney complaining that technology was ousting time-family time.

But ultimately even she has partially succumbed, zonking open her laptop after breakfast.

"Things that I thought were unacceptable a few years ago are now commonplace in my house," she says, "like all four of us starting the day on four computers in four separate rooms."

This is morning in America in the Internet age.

After six or eight hours of network deprivation—also known as sleep—people are increasingly waking up and hanging tremendously red phones and laptops.

"It used to be you woke up, went to the bathroom, maybe brushed your teeth and picked up the newspaper," says Naomi S. Baron, a professor of linguistics at American University who has written about technology's push into everyday life.

"But what we do first now has changed dramatically. I'll be the first to admit: The first thing I do is check my e-mail," she adds.

Internet companies that used to watch traffic levels rise only when people booted up at work now see the uptick much earlier.

Arbor Networks, a Boston company that analyzes Internet use, says Web traffic in the United States gradually declines from midnight to around 6 a.m. on the East Coast, then gets a huge morning rollout job around 7 o'clock.

Some families have tried to set limits on Internet use in the mornings.

Jamie Street, founder of Common Sense Media, a nonprofit organization that deals with children and media issues, wakes up every morning at 6 and spends the next hour on his BlackBerry, managing e-mail.

But when he meets his wife and four children, whose ages range from 5 to 16, at the breakfast table, no laptops or phones are allowed.

"You have to resist the impulse. You have to switch from work mode to parenting mode," he says. "But starting my days scrambled is tough." *New York Times News Service*

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Another Lea(h) on world stage

From page A1

"West Side Story" from Frank Thanoldson and Stee Fahrendt and directed by Matthew Davids is playing at the open-air ruins of the former Seefeld Abbey in Bad Hersfeld. It has seating capacity 1,500.

Born in Manila

Delos Santos, who was born in Manila, has appeared in several musicals in Germany. She played Lady Marian in "Robin Hood," Sally in "Stanley's Beauty and the Beast," Bella in "Whodun," Alexa in "Boat-Tunes," Sillabub in "Cats," Mary Magdalene in "Jesus Christ Superstar," Tipatina and Cosette in "Les Miserables."

She also performed in various concerts in Germany, Russia and New York.

Delos Santos, who speaks Filipino, English and German, debuted before German audiences in Kln in "Miss Saigon" in 1994. She is currently a contract artist of Stage-building Cardiff, a German multimedia entertainment firm.

Like Romeo and Juliet

The plot of "West Side Story" is based on William Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet."

Set in New York in the mid-1950s, the musical explores the rivalry between the Jets and the Sharks, two teenage street gangs of different ethnic and cultural backgrounds. Tony, one of the Jets, falls in love with Maria, the sister of Bernardo, the leader of the Sharks.

The dramatic libretto from Arthur Laurents depicts racial discrimination which drives the youth of New York to criminality because of misunderstanding and neglect.

The music of Leonard Bernstein, the jazz elements, the Latin American rhythms, and the classic and popular elements are the ingredients of breathtaking dramatic and lyrical scenes with explosive dance interludes that made the Broadway standard a world success.

SUMMIT CONFERENCE Malaysia Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak arrives at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) on Monday to attend the 38th Association of Asian Parliaments Conferences (AAPC) Plenary Assembly at the Pope Pius XII Center in Paco, Manila. The conference of Asia's top premiers, which started yesterday, ends on Sunday.

Across the NATION

Rescuers find 2 more bodies of miners

'Some of the dead are heroes because they tried to save five colleagues'

BAGUIO CITY—SEARCH teams recovered two bodies on Sunday and Monday, believed to belong to two of the last four missing miners buried and swept by a landslide in Barangay Klas here during heavy rains accompanying Typhoon "Kiko" on Friday.

The body of Jovelino Langki-wen was found east of Lindlee Creek in Tuba, Benguet, on Sunday night, reports from the police and the Office of Civil Defense in the Cordillera said.

The body of Joel Calligyan was found floating on the Bued River in Barangay Camp 2, also in Tuba, at 11:15 a.m. Monday, OCD reports said.

On Sunday, at least 13 teams of volunteers composed of about 200 men, armed with weapons in Baguio, Benguet, La Trinidad and Pangasinan, to look for the four miners.

Baguio police chief Supt. Henry Bangcaya said the search focused on the creeks and deep gullies at least four of the 10 miles killed by the Friday slide were found on portions of these waterways.

Search teams reported recovering a right leg in a river in Itogon, Pangasinan, on Sunday.

Most of the dead miners, whose bodies were recovered between Friday and Sunday, were scheduled to be taken home to Bugao on Monday.

Bugao Gov. Teodoro Baguilat Jr. said some of the dead miners were returning as heroes because they went among 17 miners who tried to save five colleagues trapped in a landslide before they were swept by a second slide in Klas.

Several workers are now focusing on recussive work in Purok 4 in Klas, where the landslide took place, to recover the bodies of Cpl. Jose Miller and John Gutierrez, believed to be the last of the buried in the slide to death in the first landslide.

The rescue teams have been hamstringing the area with rescue to help loosen mud there.

In Bangalisan, seven persons, six of them miners from Baguio City who were on their way to the province to search for their missing colleagues, were killed on Sunday when their jeepney hit the wall of a house in San Fabian town.

Reports from the San Fabian police said the driver of the miners' Ford Everest overtook another vehicle in Barangay Induet at past 3 p.m., but he saw a passenger bus approaching. Unfortunately, he was unable to avoid the collision.

The driver, however, lost control of the jeepney and hit a concrete wall of a house in the village. *Elmer Kristian Sinsigloy and Nicanor Cabrera with reports from Rhonda Sotelo and Jhaz Zandoya, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

RESCUERS dig through mud to find the remaining two missing miners in Tuba, Benguet, where their shanties were buried by a landslide on Friday as Typhoon "Kiko" battered Northern Luzon.

Cops rescue 17-year-old student

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Police rescued on Saturday a 17-year-old bishop victim from Sitio Odlin Silanan town in Maguindanao.

Chief Supt. Felicisimo Khu, Jr., deputy regional director for administration of the Central Mindanao police, said the young woman was rescued by members of the PNP's Joint Task Force 13 at around 12:30 a.m. in Barangay Jones, Sultan Naga Dimaporo town in Lanao Del Norte.

The rescue was made following the arrest of a certain Ahmad Mucatan in an entrapment operation at a fast food establishment in Cotabato City.

The victim was identified by the policeman men on July 17 after attending classes at STI College in Cotabato City.

According to initial facts investigators, the victim was kidnapped by a certain Asmali Dilmanmo and brought to Sultan Kudarat town in Maguindanao.

Khu said that at around 1:20 p.m. on Aug. 7, the victim's mother reported the kidnapping to the task force and that Ahmad Mucatan had called and wanted to talk about the victim.

The task force sought her help in setting up an entrapment operation.

A meeting between the victim's mother and Ahmad was set up at the fast food outlet in Cotabato City.

Ahmad was arrested and confessed information that was vital in tracking down the exact location of the kidnapper and his victim.

"With the information, a rescue operation was planned out with the help of municipal councilor Patok Alio of Sultan Kudarat town, Maguindanao," Khu said.

He said the police suspect Ahmad Dilmanoya—who also reportedly during the rescue operation.

Aquilino Zonio, Inquirer Mindanao

200-ha land declared danger zone due to cracks

By Carla P Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—A 200-hectare area in a barangay in Moises Padilla town, Negros Occidental has been declared a danger zone after huge cracks appeared and the ground sank several feet.

Moises Padilla Mayor Nonatoso Nazareno said the town's municipal development council declared a 200-ha area in Sitio Manlapay, Barangay Quintin Remo as a danger zone because the ground continued to move while cracks appeared.

Nazareno said on Monday that they have placed signs warning people against entering the area even as they urged the few remaining residents to leave the area.

Meanwhile, water has accumulated in a huge dip on the ground, resulting in an artificial lake about 10 ft deep, Negros Occidental Board Member Eugenio Lacson said.

If the earth further moved and caused the water from the "lake" to burst, it could result in a mudflow that would endanger the lives of people living in low-lying areas, Lacson said on Sunday.

Moises Padilla Councilor Jimson Jose Plaza, chair of the town council's Committee on Peace and Order, said they have recommended the immediate construction of canals from the "lake" to Binalbagan River to prevent flash floods.

Cracks on the ground that appeared last week following heavy rains have branched into several zigzagging fissures and caused landslides in Quintin Remo, Plaza disclosed on Sunday.

The main crack in the ground is about five km long and 30 to 50 ft deep, and zigzagging cracks have reached the farthest areas of the barangay, Plaza said.

He noted that the cracks have swallowed nine Tess and Kalamansi in Quintin Remo while the ground moved over 15 minutes and the soil collapsed because of cracks.

The cracks damaged about 200 ha of rice, corn and other crops and destroyed houses in Manuel, Plaza said.

Last Saturday, Plaza accompanied Nazareno and representatives of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology to the Quintin Remo, about 25 km from Moises Padilla proper.

Phivolcs researchers analyzed that because and the cracks have nothing to do with Mt. Kanlaon.

Tinukan said the constant rains may have triggered the loosening of the soil, adding that the collision of rocks and soil during the landslides have resulted in the rumbling sounds heard by Moises Padilla residents.

Negros Occidental Provincial Social Welfare Officer Lizzie Garcia in an earlier report said 93 houses were destroyed and 201 were damaged, while many residents evacuated to the town's Rizal gym and Barangay Montilla.

Sitio Manuel has virtually turned into a ghost town as almost all of its 225 residents have sought refuge in evacuation centers.

Tinukan advised residents of the affected areas to refrain from returning to their homes until it has been declared safe to do so.

Plaza said the representatives of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources visited the site on Sunday to validate the findings of Phivolcs on the origin of the cracks.

CRACKS in the ground of Barangay Quintin Remo, Negros Occidental, have prompted residents to evacuate to safe areas.

Removal of sunken ship off Romblon starts

By Kristine L. Alave

THE OPERATIONS TO REMOVE the submerged MV Princess of the Stars off the coast of Romblon province has kicked in. Its high gear after weeks of bad weather hampered the salvage company's operations.

Coast Guard officials and salvage company Ch Gaspar Salvage and Lightering Corp. has made little headway in its operations the past few weeks because of the typhoons that rained the country.

Coast Guard's Marine Safety and Investors (MSI) deputy chief of staff Commander Allan dela Vega said preliminary operations have been made in the last few days to ready the 23,000-ton ship for salvaging, which is expected to get full speed ahead this week.

"There is already a plan for full deployment, to bring the rest of the equipment and additional divers anytime this week," he said, adding that the salvaging operations will go full blast "if weather permits."

"We are really depressed on the weather. They make day-to-day plans," Dela Vega moved.

Coast Guard officials said the divers and equipment of Gaspar mostly stayed on a cove near the island while two storms pounded the country the past two weeks, making the waters of Romblon too dangerous for the divers.

Princess of the Stars, which was owned by Sulpicio Lines Inc. and said to be the biggest commercial vessel in the country, capsized off the coast of Sibuyan Island of Romblon in June 20, 2008, when it ran into the heart of typhoon Frank.

The boat was carrying about 800 crew and passengers, only 23 passengers survived the sinking.

Gaspar Coast spokesman Commander Armando Balilo said the salvor plans to send the boat, which sank in June 2008 on its way to Cebu from Manila, and pump out the water. Divers will then dismantle the vessel by cutting the parts underwater.

"They will try to cut all that they can so that it will be lighter when the salvor floats it," Balilo said.

Dela Vega said Gaspar has hired 20 divers and operators on site. Cranes, tugboats and backhoes will also be sent to the capsized boat.

Dela Vega also noted that the company was more intent to keep the endemic recovered from Princess of the Stars for future identification.

In October last year, another salvage firm, Harbor Star, recovered remittance of toxic chemicals like endosulfan and 199 bodies trapped inside the ship.

NEWSBRIEFS

■ NAGA CITY

Girl found raped, slain

THE RAPE and killing of a 7-year-old girl, whose body was found on Sunday without clothes beside a creek in Barangay Cagbacan in Naga, Camarines Sur, sent the latest in the rash of unsolved killings and robberies, including those reported from Libmanan and Lupigan towns, that had occurred in the province in the first week of August.

PNP Edmundo Trinidad of the Naga town police said a laboratory examination found the victim with lacerations in her private part, proof that she had been raped before she was killed.

He said a blow by a blunt object on the head caused the death of the girl, who had been missing since the week before she was reported missing.

Another body was found beside a road by a village watchman on Saturday in Barangay Macapawean, Canaman town, police said.

Angel Bautista, 41, a resident of the same village, was found with hand wounds in his face and body.

Jose Cielito Sotto, Inquirer Southern Luzon

■ LUCENA CITY

Rebel killed

AN ALLEGED New People's Army (NPA) rebel was killed in an encounter with government forces in Buenavista town in Quezon province on Aug. 3.

Lt. Colonel Frank Rayford of the Army's 2nd Infantry Division assured in Camp Aguinaldo, said soldiers chanced upon six NPA rebels in Barangay Villa Pereniza at around 7 a.m. and a firefight ensued. The rebels escaped, leaving behind the body of their comrade identified only as "Ka Dayo"/"Junior."

Delfin C. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

■ LEGAZPI CITY

Indian shot dead

AN INDIAN national was shot dead by an unidentified male suspect in Old Town's Albay, on Aug. 3.

Rajinder Singh, a resident of Sunrise Subdivision, Legazpi City, was killed inside his light brown Honda City car parked in front of a store in Barangay Idolite, Daraga, at around 10:15 a.m., said Bicol police spokesperson Insp. Ayo Salazar.

Singh was about to collect money from his customers when the suspect drove his Honda XR80 motorcycle, shot him twice, fled and said. *Johann Pi Gaspay, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

■ GENERAL SANTOS CITY

Classes suspended

A PHIVOLCS advisory in the Soccsk City that suspended classes for 13 days starting Aug. 6 after two of its students tested positive for A/H1N1 virus.

Salgado Saturday, South Cotabato provincial health officer, said the provincial health office has started contact tracing of families, relatives and classmates of the two students from St. Alexius College in Koronadal City, who acquired the A/H1N1 virus on after a field trip to Davao City. *Aquilino Zonio, Inquirer Mindanao*

■ TUGUEGARAO CITY

Village dad hurt

A BARANGAY captain in Solana, Cagayan, and his driver were wounded on Friday when their van was fired upon by armed men in Barangay Calamagan in that town, police said.

Ferdinand Flamenge, 41, Calamagan village chief, and his driver, Leonardo Valenzuela, 38, were hit by gunshots in different parts of the body and were taken to the St. Paul Hospital here. *AP Jesse Pinga Jr., Inquirer Northern Luzon*

Tiger's tour de force secures 7th title

TIGER Woods raises the WGC-Bridgestone trophy in Akron, Ohio. REUTERS

AKRON, OHIO—TIGER WOODS WON A record seventh WGC-Bridgestone Invitational title on Sunday, overhauling Ludwig Harrington with a sizzling burst of scoring before benefiting from a late collapse by the Irishman.

The American world No. 1 fired a five-under-par 65 on a blustery, humid day at Firestone Country Club to clinch his 70th PGA Tour victory and fifth of the year, by four strokes.

Trailing playing partner Harrington by three overnight, Woods took control by reserving the front nine in a spectacular five-under 30 on the way to a 13-under total of 267.

The Irishman regained a one-shot cushion with three holes remaining before his title bid recaptured with a triple-bogey at the par-five 16th after the duo had been put on the clock for slow play.

A closing 72 earned him a share of second place with Australian Robert Allenby (66).

Masters champion Angel Cabrera of Argentina signed off with a 67 to tie for fourth at seven under with American Hunter Mahan (68) in the elite World Golf Championships (WGC) event.

"I just knew that I had to get off to a quick start somehow and I was able to do that," Woods told reporters after draining a six-foot birdie putt on the 10th green.

"Ben Hadley was just hanging in there, never made a mistake.

He made a nice birdie at 11, then I made two mistakes at 13, 14. Boldy made a good par at 14 to take the lead. Until it hit me just a great battle."

The style Woods benefited from an extraordinary four-shot turning.

Despite pulling his tee shot left into trees, Woods conjured a scintillating birdie by playing safely out on to the fairway before striking an eight-iron from 170 yards to a foot. Reuters

Powerade-RP blasts Taiwan

From page B-6

SAH Beata's Sashar Daniel slams it in over PBA's John Lopez and Mark Cagoco in an overpowering show that drew praise from his coach.

arena, had just one reservation in 13 attempts.

"The Philippine defense (in the three-point area) was excellent," said Chinese-Taipei coach Chiang Hsiang-sah through an interpreter. "The individual skills of the Filipino players are so good.

"Our defense broke down and we gave him (Miller) a chance from the three-point line."

As in their first three games, the Filipinos started slow and trailed by as many as seven points in the first half.

They also blew a 62-54 lead at the end of the third quarter after sending the period without Jayjay Helterbrand.

But the Taiwanese fought back doggedly behind the 6-foot-8, pony-tailed Tseng Wen-ping who scored almost at will from the inside. His buckets of the first four Chinese-Taipei baskets set the pace.

The Philippines were without a basket for the first three minutes of the fourth until Jayjay Helterbrand teamed in his second triple and then gave a lead from Asi Taulava for a solo layup that restored a 67-62 lead.

But a short stab and two free throws by Tseng and two more chalkers by Wu Tai-hsu off a pair of Mick Pennisi buds gave the lead back to the Taiwanese, 68-67, with 9:19 to go.

Marky Kramer, who had drawn Tseng in the three-five rotations, but three of five chalkers and Taiwan entered four of its men before Tseng Wen scored on a jumper from deep left corner to make it 72-68 with 2:22 left.

Tseng Chin-ming made two free throws to cut the RP lead to 73-72 before Miller hit the game-winner that triggered run only scoreless 6-point in the 40 heats but also among members of a small group of OFWs in the gallery.

The score:

PHILIPPINES (Powerade) 77—Yap 22, Miller 21, Helterbrand 12, Pennisi 7, Reyes 6, Taulava 6, Cabagnot 3, Ochoa 1, Pinto 0, Sadiri 0, Mercado 0, Ildefonso 0, Ramos 0.

CHINESE-TAIPEI 78—Tseng Wen-ping 21, Lee C. Tseng Chin-ming 17, Wu C. Hsu 12, Chang 10, Chen 8, Wu H. Tsai 5, Tseng T. Hsiang 5.

Quarters: 16-18, 42-36, 62-54, 77-78

Red Lions still too classy for JRU Bombers

By Cedell P. Tejano

SUPERIOR ON ALMOST EVERY FRONT, defending champion San Beda game title contender Jose Rizal U a grim reality check in a 99-81 drubbing yesterday in the NCAA men's basketball tournament at the jampacked FILOI Flying V Arena in San Juan.

The Red Lions rolled on their passing display while drawing a consistent effort from lanceman rookie Sudan Daniel to secure their seventh win against one loss and stay in the first round with an 8-1 record.

The Henry Sy-backed cagers step the 6-foot-8 Daniel, who finished with a career-high 20 points on 12-of-17 shooting, on top of seven blocked shots in just 26 minutes.

"My story people with our plays," said San Beda coach Frankie Lim, after his team stretched its winning run to seven games. "We borrowed shots with our defense."

Besides, San Sebastian dodged the upset attempting with a 77-74 victory over Mapua to move within striking distance of sweeping the first round of the eliminations.

Jerdee Aquino delivered another solid performance for the Stags, dropping eight of his 22 points in the final period to hold off the Cardinals, who threatened at 74-75 after nailing by no losing on 13 only in the second half.

A long jumper by Aquino gave the Stags a 73-71 lead, before his two free throws with 2:00 left provided enough cushion for the Stags, who dealt Mapua its seventh defeat.

Jerdee (Aquino) is our go-to guy and we made a key stop in the stretch," said San Sebastian rookie coach Ato Agustin. "We were just lucky in this game because we couldn't even make the shots that we usually make."

Daniel responded to an 88-76 physical play with a dominant performance that included 22 points in the final period, including two-thunderous slams, the last giving the Lions a 93-81 spread with 53 seconds remaining.

"It was Sudan's biggest game," said Lim. "We just dumped the ball to him because I didn't think they could control top against him."

In junior play, San Beda pummeled Jose Rizal, 111-103, to raise sole second place with an 8-1 record, while reigning champion San Sebastian slammed Mapua, 95-82, to remain at No. 4 with a 6-3 slate.

The scores:

Juniors

SAN BEDA (111)—Rizal 32, Gayon 22, Mendoza 20, Ramos 17, Ramos 10, Ramos 6, Ramos 4, Ramos 0, Ramos 0, Ramos 0

Editor Teddyboy S. Molondres • Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Ocho

SPORTS

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Powerade-RP five blasts Taiwanese

Hot-shooting Miller, Yap come to fore

By Musong R. Carillo

TIANJIN, CHINA—WILLIE MILLER SQUARED UP FOR A THREE-POINTER from the top of the key with the shot clock about to expire and, as he had done persistently all game, knocked it in against a baffled Chinese Taipei defender.

Powerade-Philippines coach Yeng Guiao aimed both his exultation—into the scrum in the huddle—and his Pilipinas crew safely in the quarterfinals of the Fiba Asia World Championship qualifying.

Unusually hot from the outside while punting some effort on defense, the 32-year-old brought down a seasoned Taiwanese side, 77-70, at the Tianjin Gymnasium on Monday to secure a World Eight slot with two games left in the second phase of elimination.

"I feel relieved, knowing that we already have one foot in the door (of the quarterfinals)," Guiao told Pilipinas reporters later after getting a total of 15 triples from his squad that shot so poorly against South Korea just two nights before.

"I felt that it [here shooting] was coming," Guiao said. "We've trained for this for so long. It's not because we practiced it yesterday and this morning. The talent on the floor is there.

"Malaki'ng dibe sa mura or siguro [Our running and shooting paid off]," he said in jest.

Coupled with Iran's 101-75 victory over Japan and South Korea's 79-58 conquest of Kuwait in earlier games, the Philippines now sits in third place behind the Iranians (3-0) and the Koreans (3-1) within 2-1 carry-over record.

Japan and Kuwait remain winless in three games. The Taiwanese now sun a 1-2 card.

Amers Bay hit six of his 11 three-point attempts and Miller connected on all his five triples, the last with a second left on the shot clock that gave the Pilipinas a 71-70 lead, time down to 11.7 seconds.

"9-Point Joe (Miller) made that three, it was the point where I knew that the game was already won," Guiao told Taiwanese media of that selling shot by the Pilipino starting guard which he described as "Miller Time" (after the popular beer commercial in the United States and one Mbl publication used to describe the game heroics of former Indiana Pacer Reggie Miller).

"Definitely, Reggie Miller is made some good-looking shots like this guy," joked Guiao, pointing to Miller who was seated beside him in the press room. "But seriously, he (Miller) was just sensational today."

Next up for the Pilipinas is defending champion and rock-solid Iran at 11 Tuesday morning before they wind up their schedule at 9 a.m. Wednesday against lightweight Kuwait.

One more win would save the Pilipinas out of an early clash with powerhouse China in the knockout quarterfinals.

"We will shoot for the moon against Iran," Guiao said. "If we can shoot this way against them, who knows what can happen."

The Pilipinos finished with a 50-percent clip from the arc while Taiwan, which usually shoots so well from that range, managed only 4-21.

FILIPINO gunner James Yap gets away from Chinese-Taipei's Lee Hsueh-lin for the third of his five triples in the third quarter.

Korea sees China supremacy in Fiba Asia

By Musong R. Carillo

TIANJIN, CHINA—THE OTHER COUNtries in the 25th Fiba Asia championship are hoping to end their dominance by South Korea again when it comes to "conventional" talents during upcoming tournaments.

While the majority of competing countries in the Jones Cup in Taipei three weeks ago either left some key players at home or played some of their games at half throttle, South Korea brought in a complete team ... athletic, smart ... and played with oomph and vigor.

Only Ha Seung-jin was not in Taipei, although the Koreans gave short-net mainly revolve around the 7-foot-4 behemoth.

Chinese Taipei did not play three key players there, Lebanon used Jackson Vroman and Matt Freije with only three games left and Kazakhstan did not parade NBA prospect Anton Ponomarev.

So, how did the Koreans manage to evade the storm in Taipei?

Korea left behind its head coach, the hip-replacement Hur Jae, and gave the marching duties to Kang Jung-woo.

In this Fiba Asia tournament, the Koreans play differently under Hur, who feels his boss is a master at utility fixing.

Kang, meanwhile, has slipped back to his position as the first assistant coach.

* * *

Incidentally, Hur ... the love of many Koreans conquests internationally and who has played against several generations of Filipinos now from Sunday Lim and Allan Caidic to Ronnie Dominoles in the Asian Games ... has controlled debut.

From after topping Group A beatdown with a 3-0 record (clocking a 69-58 victory over the Filipinos Saturday night), Hur doesn't give his team a chance against China.

"China still win first place," Hur said through an interpreter during a post-game interview. "There's no doubt about it. They will win the championship."

Hur, though, refused to name the rest two finishers.

Landing automatic third berth will be so important as winning the title since it would mean berths to the World Championship in Istanbul, Turkey next August.

HUR JAE: He doesn't shoot it.

No serious harm for Ateneo ace Al-Hussaini

By Jaemilen M. Paez

ATENEO'S BLUE CHIEF center Kabsh Al-Hussaini is expected to return to action in the UAAP basketball tournament on Thursday, but the 6-foot-2 center will remain under observation.

Al-Hussaini, the reigning Most Valuable Player, sprained his left ankle with six minutes left in the fourth quarter of Ateneo's match against Benilde in Cubao last Sunday.

The injury sidelined him for the rest of the game, won by the Eagles in overtime, 79-73. He finished with 13 points.

"The status is day-to-day but it's nothing serious," said Ateneo team manager Pocky Bello.

With the win, the Eagles stayed on top at 6-1, in a tie with the Far Eastern U Tamaraws.

"I think it was a pretty successful first round, except for the one game we played against UP," said Ateneo coach Norman Black. "But hopefully we learned our lessons. We learned that we have to score each play every night."

The Eagles absorbed their lone loss against the erstwhile winless Maroons, 68-58.

DLSU coach Glenn Capacio also said an early setback helped the elite down the Tamaraws regroup and stretch their winning run to six games, the tournament's longest streak so far.

"When we lost our first game (against Ateneo, 68-58), I wasn't sure how the players will react after a loss," said Capacio. "But they improved in every game and showed character."

In women's action, defending champion UST and Adamson remained in front at 6-1 after handling the respective opponents, also last Sunday at the FEU gym.

The Lady Tams topped the Lady Maroons, 43-41, while the Lady Falcons had an easier time routing the UST Tigresses, 80-66.

The Lady Archers (4-2) downed the Lady Eagles, 61-34, while the NU Lady Bulldogs (5-2) crushed the UE Lady Warriors, 75-61.

PBA tackles plans under new chair

By Musong R. Carillo

TIANJIN, CHINA—THE PHILIPPINE AMateur Basketball Association has announced that the coming 35th season of Asia's first play-for-pay league will be the biggest in its history.

New league chief Lito Alvarez of Barangay King, presiding over the the PBA board's annual meeting here Sunday, said he has proposed the conversion of the league into a corporation to make it truly "self-liquidating."

Alvarez also hopes to launch the ground-breaking for the PBA's own residences to improve its annual "homecation" (profit).

"We have to remember the PBA is a powerful brand," Alvarez told reporters over breakfast Monday at the Ming Yan Gu hotel, where the members of the board are billeted.

Also tackled were the expansion of the field of 10 teams to 12 by next year, the institution of the Wednesday-to-Sunday gameplays to accommodate a total of seven games and the reversion to the old three-conference format from the current two.

Aside from Alvarez, the other new officers were Jimy Dacks of Purefoods as vice chair and lawyer Macario Mendiagon of Kaya as fellow as treasurer.

The possibility of the PBA building its own arena was first floated during the term of Tuli 11 Tim representative Eddy Alegre in 2007.

"I wish that during my term, we can have the ground-breaking for the (PBA) own coliseum," said Alvarez.

Final word from Arum: Cotto staking WBO crown at 145 lb

By Ray Lauren

THE WELTERWEIGHT CROWN will be on the line and the afternoon will be at 1:45 pounds when Manny Pacquiao and Miguel Cotto weigh in Nov. 14 at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Promoter Bob Arum declared this Sunday night, spelling speculations that Cotto wasn't for making his World Boxing Organization title against Pacquiao if the weighed limit is not fought at 147 lb.

"Everything has been decided and agreed to," Arum told Michael Marley of Examiner.com on Monday.

"Cotto is defending the title and the weight limit will be 145 pounds. There are no disagreements or problems. Now, everything is cleared up."

The 77-year-old Arum, who is vacationing in southern France, expects to have the fight contract signed by Pacquiao and Cotto by Tuesday (Wednesday in Manila).

With the pay-per-view fight expected to be a big hit, only 1,000 tickets will be put on sale by Aug. 17.

COTTO: Ready to spotlight contract.

PACQUIAO: Still to start training.

While Cotto has started preparations in Caguas, Puerto Rico, Pacquiao has yet to announce his choice of where to hold the first half of his eight-week training camp.

Arum has advised Pacquiao to do it outside the United States to avoid a hefty tax assessment.

Among the places being considered are Nassau in the Bahamas, Monterrey, Cancún, Mexico and Cebu and Baguio in the Philippines.

In a related development, 44-year-old matchmaking and light heavyweight star Bernard Hopkins gained Pacquiao to land Zabu by unbeaten Kazakhstan in the late rounds.

$500,000 tournament toasts Bata Reyes

REYES

ProGear Golf

Aplus METRO
Editor Alexander S. Lhuillier

DID YOU KNOW

METRO Manila school division had a dismal overall performance in the 2007-2008 National Achievement Test for second year high school students, with only Valenzuela City students in the top 100 school divisions based on mean percentage scores. The city placed 95th with an average of 47.1. Close to 200 schools participated in the test.
Carli, Bondoc, Inquirer Research

DISCLOSURE OF CUSTOMS OFFICIAL

Importers using Jpepa to cheat gov't

BACK IN BUSINESS
Workers unfurl a billboard advertisement on Edsa as the skies clear with the departure of Typhoon "Kiko" on Monday. —ALVIN

By Marlon Ramos

IMPORTERS AND BROkers have resorted to using a controversial trade agreement between the Philippines and Japan to avoid paying the correct amount of taxes to the government, a ranking customs official said yesterday.

He told the Inquirer that the Bureau of Customs (BoC) came across the new modus operandi after it discovered that a steel company based in Bocaue, Bulacan, and its broker had invoked the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (Jpepa) to allegedly avoid paying more than P50 million in import duties.

The official, who asked not to be identified for lack of authority to speak to media, said the owners of Mayer Steel Pipe Corp. (MSPC) and their broker, Subway Customs Brokerage Inc., could face criminal charges for bringing in some P200 million worth of hot-rolled steel plates from Japan without paying the proper taxes.

Under the controversial agreement, importers accredited by a Jpepa committee are exempted from paying the seven percent customs tax on all imported goods.

"Basically, this is technical smuggling. The company and its broker tried in vain to use Jpepa as cover," the BoC official said, adding that the shipment has been seized since the firm has refused to settle its financial obligations to the government.

He showed the Inquirer copies of the documents and tax computation sent by the bureau to MSPC.

He said that they were still waiting for a reply from the company adding that if it does not respond within a given period of time, charges would be filed against it.

Customs records showed that MSPC's broker filed an import entry with the Bureau's "super green lane" a day before the cargo arrived on July 22 in an apparent attempt to prevent customs personnel from checking the shipment.

After paying more than P24 million in value-added taxes, the customs official said the broker immediately went to bring out the shipment from the Manila South Harbor by claiming that it was covered by Jpepa.

"When we sought verification with the Department of Trade and Industry, we found out that while the importer was accredited under Jpepa, its invoices [had] failed to secure the needed authority to import," he added.

"Without the authority to import, DTI said Jpepa-accredited importers must still pay the right duties and taxes to the government," he said.

200 volunteers to clean up Marikina waterways for ₱100

By DJ Yap

HELP UNCLOG CANALS FOR TWO HOURS and get P100 worth of food.

Volunteers from poor families in Marikina City will be tapped to clear waterways and make drainage systems to exchange for rice and edibles as part of a food-for-work scheme of the government, officials said yesterday.

The clean-up drive is in line with "Tangkilikin Mo, Sagot Ko," a project of the Department of Social Welfare and Development that provides opportunities for poor families to work for their basic daily needs, especially food.

Two-pronged project

The project, under the national government's Food-for-Work scheme, is two-pronged. It is aimed at providing work for indigents and at the same time preventing flood-related disasters by unclogging canals.

Almost 200 volunteers from three barangays—Tumana, Malanday and Nangka—have signed up for the clean-up activity which will start on Aug. 17, according to the City Social Welfare and Development Office headed by Nadia Ynares.

"Our volunteers will render two working hours daily in exchange for P100 worth of food a day," Ynares said.

She added that for the first phase, the project would be implemented for 22 working days and would prioritize unemployed breadwinners or heads of families.

Safe, disaster-ready

In a statement, Mayor Marides Fernando lauded the involvement of residents residents in the local government's continuing efforts to keep Marikina safe and disaster-ready.

"I applaud their participation in reducing the risk to people and their property from disasters and calamities and their efforts, engaging in volunteerism signifies their willingness to create meaningful change in our community," she added.

The Tangkilikin Mo, Sagot Ko project is also partly managed by the Metro Manila Mayors' Upstream Foundation Inc.

QC cops' anti-illegal drugs operation nets 11 persons

By Julie M. Aurelio

ELEVEN PERSONS WERE ROUNDED UP ON Sunday afternoon in Barangay Culiat, Quezon City, after the police busted illegal drugs and drug paraphernalia in their possession.

Forty-seven (almost) under the custody of members of the District Anti-Illegal Drugs-Special Operations Task Group (DAID-SOTG) of the Quezon City Police District (QCPD) which conducted a raid in the area.

QCPD director, Chief Supt. Hotar Sisa Diego, identified those arrested as Jessica Tan, 32; Ramalyn delos Santos, 30; Arman Cal, 23; Rodolfo Mapa, 44; Maylyn Pampin, 39; Christopher Enriquez, 34; Renato Soriano, 42; Felix Villanueva, 41; Renato Reyes, 31; Reynaldo dela Cruz, 42, and Elmer dela Cruz, 28.

They were apprehended inside a house on Lilia Street in Barangay Culiat, Quezon City, by DAID-SOTG operatives on Sunday afternoon.

Pot session

In a report to Sisa Diego, DAID-SOTG chief Senior Insp. Jaime Arrozuna said his men caught the 11 persons as they were having a pot session.

Police operatives seized from them two plastic sachets containing suspected shabu, or methamphetamine hydrochloride, two foil wallets, two pieces of foil with traces of suspected shabu and four lighters.

The QCPD said it would charge the 11 persons with illegal drug possession under Republic Act No. 9165 or the Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002.

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Trader loses more than ₱3M in cash, jewelry to thieves

By Julie M. Aurelio

A BUSINESSWOMAN LOST more than ₱3 million worth of valuables after thieves broke into her house in Quezon City while she and her family were out having lunch on Sunday afternoon.

Deborah Uno, 54, told police that the break-in probably occurred between 12:15 p.m. and 4:15 p.m. on Sunday in her house on Sunrise Street in Bahay Toro.

Chief Investigator PO3 Ronald de Dios of the Quezon City Police District said the thieves reportedly took away cash, jewelry and cash.

Uno said she and her family decided to go out for lunch on Sunday afternoon, leaving their house unattended.

When they returned later in the day, she told the police, they found the house in disarray with their belongings scattered all over the house, while a locked, like-a-vault had gone through her things inside her bedroom and the master bedroom occupied by her mother.

Uno added that she lost more than ₱3 million in cash and valuables.

Witnesses told the police that they saw no signs of forced entry, except for a broken wooden cabinet inside the mother's room.

"Some pieces of jewelry were also left scattered on the floor and in an open drawer inside the compartment's bedroom," Nieva said in his report.

Among the missing items were watches with brands like Rolex, Philippe, Baloves, DKNY, Philip Stein and Omega worth nearly ₱1.5 million.

Other items taken from the house were diamond rings, a sapphire ring and ruby ring, gold ring, earrings and bracelet worth ₱1.5 million. The complainant also reported that ₱100,000 and ₱5,000 in cash were missing.

The police said they were considering the possibility of an inside job in the robbery incident.

How Pinoys wished they choked on their food

ON TARGET
Aurelio Trillo

EDEN B. TREVI: MILLENIUM Art of Freedom Gloria and company in a classy restaurant in New York was last paid by arts magnate? money, still a wise guy lessmiles of lies.

One is reminded of French queen Marie-Antoinette, months before she was guillotined, saying that if the people didn't have bread, then give them cake.

How could GMA, president of a poverty-stricken nation, allow ₱1 million to be spent on her dinner when many people back home fell hungry pangs?

How could she and her cohorts feast on champagne, expensive wine, caviar, prime rib steaks and saddles of lamb when they know that before President Cory was lying in state at the Manila Cathedral?

Oh, how people back home would love subsidized chicken on their food!

* * *

Sen. Dick Gordon cancelled his birthday party scheduled for Aug. 5 in deference to the death of Cory Aquino.

Gordon having been a "victim" of Presidential Cory's non-dictatorial government, he could just have ignored her death.

Gordon was replaced as mayor of Olongapo City by a political foe whom Cory appointed as officer-in-charge.

Dick Gordon had all the reasons not to defer to the former President.

Cory made Gloria Her first order in government was as undersecretary of trade during the Cory Aquino administration.

* * *

After GMA was informed about Cory's death, she could have flown directly from New York to Manila.

But she had to fly to Los Angeles and linger there for a while before coming home.

In other words, when she went to the Manila Cathedral from the airport, rendering unto Cory the family was far from her mind.

She went to Cory's wake because she would have appeared selfish if she didn't.

* * *

How did Sen. Jamby Madrigal get into the line-up of the inner President Cory's close relatives who placed flowers on her grave?

She belongs neither to the legalese elan nor the Cojuangco clan.

Apparently she wanted her face seen on TV so voters would remember her in 2010.

That was a cheap stunt.

How can you respect a person who pulls such a stunt?

* * *

General Lumen police director Chief Supt. Leon Nilo de la Cruz could be ousted have local officials of Cagua, Tuguegarao, investigated for allowing truants to go up the slopes of Mt. Pinatubo despite the bad weather.

Three Dutch tourists and two Filipinos drowned as an ash-ridden mudflow from Pinatubo slopes. Another Filipino was reported missing.

When Sr. Lt. Cruz points an accusing finger at Cagua officials, three of his fingers point at himself.

Dr. Le Cruz has forgotten the Philippine National Police motto: To serve and protect.

It's not the job of local officials to protect them; it's the job of the police.

Instead, De la Cruz should investigate his policemen in Tuguegarao who allowed the 10 Dutch and Filipinos during bad weather.

* * *

Only seven percent of Filipinos believe that our judiciary is corrupt, according to the 2009 Global Corruption Barometer.

The Global Corruption Barometer is a survey conducted by Transparency International.

The survey would have been believable if it had been made by the Social Weather Stations or Pulse Asia.

But Transparency International came up with the results of that survey?

The country's judiciary is one of the most corrupt in the world.

That perception is not lost on most Filipinos.

Chief Justice Reynato Puno is one of the few strong guards in our judicial system.

Lim opens high school named in Cory's honor

A YOUNG girl inside the newly opened President Corazon C. Aquino High School (inset) gazes at the school's neighbor, the Bureau Compound in Manila. The school, which was inaugurated by Mayor Alfredo Lim yesterday, was built to honor others know of the legacy of the former leader. ARVIN BATAC

By Jeannette I. Andrade

MANILA MAYOR ALFREDO Lim yesterday led the inauguration of the three-story President Corazon C. Aquino High school at the Bureau compound in Intramuros.

The newly built school houses 15 classrooms and sits on a 2,700-sq.-m lot. It was named after the late former leader so that other generations would know of Aquino's legacy to this country, Lim said.

PTS-M project

He added that the school, which would accommodate mostly residents of the Bureau compound in Intramuros and other neighboring areas, cost ₱75 million.

It is also expected to take in students of the Manila Science High School who have been granted scholarships by the city government.

Apart from the newly-constructed school, Lim is also planning to put up a monument to Aquino in the city to honor of her contribution to the country.

The government land will be used for the project, the mayor said, adding that he would be using his money for the construction of the monument at the corner of P. Burgos Drive and Roxas Boulevard.

Lim said he would first secure the necessary permit from the Department of Tourism.

Statue to Cory, Nitoy

The statue of Aquino will be placed beside that of her husband, Former Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr., who was killed on Aug. 21, 1983, upon his return to the country.

Lim said that he was still considering the Aquino family on how the monument would look as well as the sculptor who would be commissioned for the project.

The mayor stressed that he wanted the Aquino family to help him make decisions about the project's details so that the commitment "would be to their liking."

It's back!

Jetstar's offer to fly, ride, stay and shop for free to Singapore

Jetstar is once again offering bargain travelers the ultimate Singapore experience with the opportunity to fly to and from the city-state plus a month-long ride on the Singapore Flyer, the world's largest observation wheel, and shop at the Singapore Changi Airport duty free!

In June, thousands of Asian travelers received the package as part of Jetstar's collaboration with Singapore Changi Airport and the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore to promote the Singapore Tourism Board.

The promotion is back. Between the 3rd and 17th August, travelers who book airfare to Manila or Singapore on Jetstar's website for travel until 31 December 2009 from Kuala Lumpur, Kaohsiung, Hong Kong, Melbourne, Perth, Auckland, Brisbane, Bangkok, the Gold Coast, Sydney, Manila and Taipei will receive the Jetstar prize package.

For every one-night stay at participating Accor properties – 368 Singapore on Bencoolen, the Grand Mercure Roxy Hotel and the Novotel Singapore Clarke Quay – lucky passengers will get the second night stay for free during the promotional period.

The package can be booked via an online reservation system at www.accorhotels.com/singapore/jetstar/ campaign and participants in signature festivals and cultural events such as Chil Out, Thaipusam, Singapore Fun Festival, Chingay, Hungry Ghost Festival and Mooncake Festival.

Promotional packages can be booked via online reservation at www.accorhotels.com/singapore/jetstar/ or by calling 800-6-01-877 from 3 – 17 August 2009. Terms and conditions apply. Visit www.jetstar.com/singapore for more.

Around the promotion:

"The promotion applies to travel from Kuala Lumpur, Hong Kong, Kaohsiung, Melbourne, Perth, Auckland, Manila, Bangkok, Gold Coast, Sydney, Brisbane and Surabaya. The promotion is only valid only for travel between 1 October and 31 December 2009. Flights are subject to availability and not available on all flights and days. Full terms and conditions are at www.accorhotels.com/sg/.

Passengers flying into the Singapore Flyer must be redeemed within three days (Sunday, Thursday, Friday) of their arrival in Singapore.

Accommodation can be booked by calling the Accor reservation center in the relevant country. Jetstar travel guests for accommodation must present the booking reference details when they are booking the hotel reservation. For details on how to book please visit www.jetstar.com/singapore/hotel.

Around the "2009 Welcome to enjoy Singapore!" campaign:

"2009 Welcome to enjoy Singapore!" is a year-long global marketing campaign launched by the Singapore Tourism Board (STB) in February 2009. Under this campaign, STB aims to generate demand for travel to Singapore and create positive destination perceptions through leveraging key, existing signature events and developing attractive value for money experiences together with collaborative partners. This campaign also seeks to create demand for Singapore's tourism online offerings, and promotions are also available to residents in Singapore. Various deals with the destination can be found at www.yoursingapore.com/welcome and found at www.visitsingapore.com/welcome/en.

About Accor Hotels:

Accor Hotels' Charlie Oaks is conveniently located right in the center of all the riverside action, and close to Orchard Road. The hotel offers large modern rooms, and 24* Premier rooms and lounge. A massive bar has lots of space to relax, an open kind outdoor resort pool perfect for exercise, and three restaurants serving tasty buffets and specialties from around the world. 2 meeting rooms are available for business travellers.

Grand Mercure Roxy Hotel is a welcome oasis amidst the heritage charms of historic Katong, the hotel is also a stone's throw to the city centre. Singapore Expo, the Suntec Convention Centre and Orchard Road. Close by is East Coast Park with beaches, restaurants and bicycle rentals. Modern, well-appointed restaurants and lounge await in only 11 minutes with a shuttle available from the hotel lobby. Fitness centre, pool, 2 bars and 2 restaurants along with business facilities make this a perfect choice for business or leisure.

Brand new this Singapore on Bencoolen is centrally located in the heart of Singapore's bustling district. It is close to major shopping and tourist attractions. The hotel features contemporary styled rooms with modern fixtures and large bay windows, and offers free WiFi access throughout the hotel.

Novotel Singapore Clarke Quay is a contemporary hotel with a vibrant ambience. Located in the heart of the city, it is surrounded by a wide variety of dining and entertainment options. Guests can enjoy a relaxing swim in the outdoor pool, or work out in the fitness centre. Free WiFi access is available throughout the hotel.

METROBRIEFS

Chinese trader kidnapped

MAKATI: policemen were looking for a Chinese trader who was reportedly kidnapped over the weekend. The victim, Eric Ong, is a garment factory owner from Fisher Village, Barrio City, was abducted by four armed men on Sunday at his local office establishment. Eric investigator PO3 Jerome Espinas said the kidnapping was witnessed by the victim's kin and employee. The witnesses said two armed men went inside the factory and at gunpoint, declared a heist. The three other men stayed in front of the company and served as lookouts. Instead of robbing the establishment, however, the two men fled the victim and escaped in a white Toyota Revo with plate number WFK 402.

Jimmy T. Gutierrez

Rap group members shot

TAGUIG: members of a rap group were injured after they were shot at his old residential area in front of a house in Bonifacio Drive before dawn yesterday. Reports from the Western Bicutan police identified the victims as Eric Rola, Marvin Ochoa and Marjorie Bartolo, who all sustained gunshot wounds in the leg or foot. Rola and Ochoa are members of the Rip Hop rap group "Rebbitsthop." Initial investigation showed that the group was practicing in Bartolo's house on Marsuway Street in Bicutan's Village in Central City when they decided to take a break. The three victims were about to go out of the gate with another group member, Jude Gervacio, when two men opened fire on them. The victims described one of them as tall and with a beard. Police said they were looking at a possible rivalry with another group as the motive for the shooting incident.

Julie M. Aurelio

NO WORRIES Police troopers still manage to smile despite being made to crawl through the mud in Camp Aguinaldo, the headquarters of the Quezon City Police District. BOBBY VARGAS

Former policeman shot dead by motorcycle rider

By Jeannette I. Andrade

A FORMER MANILA POLICEMAN died after he was shot in the face at close range by a man on a motorcycle before dawn yesterday.

Marcelo Collado, 52, a resident of Gayubang Street in Tondo, Manila, was declared dead on arrival by attending doctors of Fondo Monumental Medical Center due to a gunshot wound to the head.

Homicide investigators said they have yet to determine the motive for the killing as those who witnessed the incident were unwilling to talk about it.

"None of them want to talk. We still do not know what they are afraid of," SPO2 David Tenorio of the Manila Police District (MPD) homicide section told reporters, pointing out that the residents only told them that the gunmen had shouted at the victim before shooting him.

Tenorio said the shooting incident happened at around 2:15 a.m. yesterday on Velasquez Street near Emilio Jacinto Elementary School in Tondo.

The case investigators said that Collado was driving his motorcycle with NZ226 plate number when two riders approached him, shouted an invective at him and then shot him in the face.

The victim was brought by residents to the area in the nearest hospital as his attacker fled.

Police said the motive behind the killing could be retaliation. It could be over an old grudge. It could be because of the victim's old job. We still cannot say," Tenorio said.

Iran opposition claims jailed protesters raped

TEHRAN—AN IRANIAN opposition leader has claimed that women and boys detained over the waves of unrest that swept the nation after the disputed presidential election have been brutally raped in custody.

The allegations by defeated presidential candidate Mehdi Karroubi surfaced as Iran hit back at Western criticism of its mass trials of protesters, including British and French embassy staff.

"A number of detainees have said that some female detainees have been raped savagely. Young boys held in detention have also been savagely raped," Karroubi said in a letter to powerful clerics and ex-president Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.

"The young boys are suffering from depression and severe physical and mental damage since their rapes," he said, urging a probe into the claims.

Karroubi made the allegations to a "confidential letter" delivered on July 29 to Rafsanjani in his capacity as head of the Assembly of Experts, the powerful body which selects the supreme leader and supervises his activities.

Karroubi, a reformist former parliamentary speaker who came a distant fourth in the June 12 election that returned President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad to power, has previously alleged that prisoners were being abused and beaten in custody.

About 2,000 opposition supporters were arrested in the aftermath of Ahmadinejad's disputed victory. Most have been released, but around 200 remain behind bars. At least 110 have died since pre-vote trial.

Karroubi urged Rafsanjani to take up the issue with supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, saying the "clergy and the Islamic republic will be held responsible" for such acts.

"The people who told me about this hold sensitive positions and some are ministers of the state (with long)," he said in the letter, a copy of which was obtained by AFP.

On Sunday, the head of the Revolutionary Guards' political bureau called for Karroubi, his fellow defeated election challenger Mir Hossein Mousavi and Ahmadinejad's predecessor Mohammad Khatami to go on trial for plotting a "velvet coup." Iranian opposition leaders have repeatedly accused security forces of uncovering detained protesters in their endeavor a defiant campaign against Ahmadinejad's victory in what they say was a rigged election. AFP

THE MAHARANI Gayatri Devi of Jaipur (right) poses with an unidentified man next to a custom built Rolls Royce in Jaipur in this undated picture.

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Death of Indian 'queen' triggers royal squabble

NEW DELHI—THE DEATH OF an Indian queen who personified a bygone aristocratic privilege has set romantic glamour has sparked a bitter inheritance dispute among her surviving family.

Gayatri Devi was one of the most celebrated beauties of the last century, mixing traditional palace life in the royal city of Jaipur with glamorous parties, cocktail parties and shopping trips to London.

She and her dashing husband, the Maharajah of Jaipur, Bhai Singh, whom she married in 1940, were idolized by Jaipur's local population and Western high society, but her death has revealed a family at odds over property and money.

Indian newspapers have reported that many relatives are in conflict with each other and that, since Gayatri Devi's death on July 29, they have been positioning themselves for the coming battle over her will.

The Times of India predicted an "ugly showdown" over a fortune estimated at between $200 to $400 million, with the home of the stunning Rambagh Palace in Jaipur likely to be one of many areas of dispute.

Gayatri Devi and the Maharajah lived in Rambagh when they first married before it was converted into a 98-room "heritage" hotel.

After her husband died in 1970, she lived in Lilypool, a smaller house in the palace grounds.

Local media reported that a door she used to walk between the two buildings had been mysteriously bricked up since her death—an apparent first move in the complex legal wrangles that lie ahead.

Gayatri Devi's only son, Jagat Singh, died in 1997, and the Times reported that her grandchildren, Devraj and Lalitya, have been vanishing until official mourning finished at the weekend to press their claims.

"Things will be clear only after the will is read out," an unnamed associate of Devraj was quoted by the newspaper as saying. "Disputes will arise, a strong manager and damage the family's reputation."

The fate of Gayatri Devi's legacy—including stakes in at least 17 palaces, forts, hotels and homes, plus a famous jewellery collection—is unclear even to outsiders. AFP

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Camarines Norte
Municipality of Jose Panganiban

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

The Local Government unit-Jose Panganiban, Camarines Norte, through the Approved Loan from Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP), Lalo Streets are DOST No. 2008-Reg. V-(LGU)-02, dated Jun 13, 2008 intends to apply the sum of **P11,450,000.00**, Appropriated Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for "**Improvement of JP Municipal Building Complex** No. 2008-009, Jose Panganiban, Camarines Norte" which is authentically reported in the opening.

The LGU-JPCN now invites interested Bidders to apply for eligibility for the said project. Bidders should be licensed and accredited contractors by the appropriate agency and must have completed a similar contract within or also of at least 50% of the ABC; and must the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the eligibility forms. Application for eligibility will be evaluated on a "passed" basis. The deadline for submission of eligibility documents shall be on or before **August 10, 2009**, this Eligibility Documents.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to Filipino citizens/ entities duly organized under the laws of the Philippines and eligible to participate in the bidding for the contract including joint venture in which Filipino interest is not less than sixty-five percent (65%) as provided for in the IRR of R.A. 9184.

Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from the LGU-JPCN and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during office hours from **August 12, 2009**.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by the Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Official Receipt by the BAC Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P5,000.00. The Bidding Documents shall be delivered personally by the Bidder or his authorized representative starting **August 13, 2009**.

The LGU-JPCN will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all eligible Bidders on **August 21, 2009** at 10:00 AM at the Municipal Session Hall, Poblacion Barangay, Talusan-ao, Bicol.

Eligible Bidders must submit their bids at the address below on or before **August 31, 2009** at 10:00 AM. Late bids shall not be accepted.

All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the form and amount stipulated in the IRR of R.A. 9184.

The LGU-JPCN reserves the right to accept or reject any or all Bids, to annul the Bidding process at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

BAC CHAIRMAN
LOLIANE PANGANIBAN GARCIANO-SORTO
(063) 571-1564

Police locate bodies, aircraft in NY air collision

NEW YORK—POLICE DIVERS LOCATED A fifth corpse Sunday from a rookie collision between a plane and a helicopter over New York's Hudson River in which nine people died.

Police continued to scour the murky, fast-flowing Hudson more than 24 hours after a light Piper plane and a helicopter carrying Italian tour bus sightseers into each other.

Three bodies were found soon after the accident Saturday and Mayor Michael Bloomberg told a news conference that two more were found Sunday.

Meanwhile, local NY television showed emergency services police pulling out the mangled helicopter and using a crane to put it aboard a barge.

Police using sonar equipment had also located the remains, or at least part of the remains of the submerged plane, spokesman Paul Browne said.

The collision happened Saturday in mid-day in full view of tourists and locals enjoying a fine summer day along the Manhattan and New Jersey riverfronts.

The Italian tourists and a pilot were aboard the helicopter, while the plane was carrying a pilot and two passengers, including a child.

The National Transportation Safety Board, which sent a team to New York on Saturday, was investigating the cause of the crash.

Witnesses described the two aircraft plummeting into the river.

Images broadcast by Fox News television showed the aircraft right after impact, with the plane rotating to right wing and the helicopter disintegrating.

It was the first fatal crash in New York since Oct. 11, 2006, when two people died after flying a light plane into a skyscraper on Manhattan's east side.

In January, an Airbus jet operated by US Airways ran power shortly after take-off and crash landed in the Hudson without loss of life. AFP

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Camarines Norte
Municipality of Jose Panganiban

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENTS

The Provincial Government of Camarines, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites qualified manufacturers/ distributors/suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following supplies:

Bid Ref. No.	Item No.	Unit	Description	ABC	Cost of Bid Documents
09-06-001					5,000.00
09-06-001	1	Unit	Ophthalmic Slitlamp, Photographic Attachment	350,000.00	
	2	Unit	Ophthalmic Slitlamp, Digital Attachment	350,000.00	
	3	Unit	Ophthalmic Trial Set (Full Metal)	70,000.00	
	4	Unit	Ophthalmic Trial Set (Full Metal) with Universal Phoropter Attachment	140,000.00	
	5	Unit	Ophthalmic Trial Set (Plastic)	50,000.00	
	6	Unit	Ophthalmic Trial Set (Plastic) with Universal Phoropter Attachment	120,000.00	
	7	Unit	Portable Slitlamp	150,000.00	
	8	Unit	Portable Slitlamp with Digital Camera	250,000.00	
	9	Unit	Portable Fundus Camera	350,000.00	
	10	Unit	Portable Fundus Camera with Digital Camera	450,000.00	
	11	Unit	Tonometer, Applanation	70,000.00	
	12	Unit	Tonometer, Schiotz	30,000.00	
	13	Unit	Tonometer, Digital	70,000.00	
	14	Unit	Tonometer, Non-Contact	70,000.00	
	15	Unit	Tonometer, Indentation	30,000.00	
	16	Unit	Tonometer, Pneumatic	70,000.00	
	17	Unit	Tonometer, Electronic	70,000.00	
	18	Unit	Tonometer, Calibration Weight/Device	30,000.00	
09-06-002					5,000.00
(Negotiated)	1	Unit	Ophthalmic Microscope, Operating Type (Binocular)	1,000,000.00	
(Negotiated)	2	Unit	Ophthalmic Microscope, Operating Type (Monocular)	1,000,000.00	
09-06-003					5,000.00
(Negotiated)	1	Unit	Ophthalmic Microscope, Operating Type (Binocular) with Digital Camera	1,500,000.00	
	2	Unit	Ophthalmic Microscope, Operating Type (Monocular) with Digital Camera	1,500,000.00	

Location of the Project: Province of Camarines Norte
Project Completion Duration: Three (three) months from receipt of Notice to Proceed

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking similar project and/or in the **3 years** previous to the date of submission and receipt of bids. The Provincial Government of Camarines Norte reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to waive any defect therein, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from the Provincial Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat, Provincial Government Compound, Daet, Camarines Norte and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during office hours from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. except on Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by the interested bidder upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00). The Bidding Documents may be purchased starting **August 12, 2009** from the address below and upon payment of the applicable fee for the Bidding Documents.

It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) provided that bidders shall pay the non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.

Bids must be delivered on or before 10:00 A.M. of **September 2, 2009**. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stipulated in the Bidding Documents.

Bid opening shall be on **September 2, 2009** at 10:00 A.M. at the Provincial Session Hall, Provincial Capitol, Daet, Camarines Norte. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend the activity.

The Provincial Government of Camarines Norte reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract at any time prior to contract award in accordance with Section 41 of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

For further information, please refer to: Engr. Bil Sevilla, Chairman, Provincial Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat, Provincial Capitol, Daet, Camarines Norte, Telefax No. (054) 440-0027 / (054) 440-0028.

Approved:

ENGR. ROMEO S. CORDERO
Provincial Administrator
Chairman, PBAC

(PDI, August 11, 2009)

METRO
Citizen's Call

0918-0000000

PA Dasmariñas

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence K. Quesa

Wave of bombings hits Iraq

Double truck bombing, other blasts targeting Shiites kill 42

BAGHDAD—A DOUBLE TRUCK BOMBING TORE through a Shiite community near the northern city of Mosul, while blasts in Baghdad targeted primarily Shiites in a wave of violence that killed at least 42 people, Iraqi officials said.

The attacks provided a grim example of US military warnings that insurgents are trying to derail security gains as the Americans ease back their presence and raised fears that Sunni insurgents are increasingly targeting Shiites in an effort to reignite sectarian violence that nearly tore the country apart in 2006 and 2007.

The deadliest blast on Monday was a double truck bombing in Khazna village, just east of Mosul, as the members of a Shiite minority ethnic group called the Shabak, who live there, were still sleeping.

Two explosives-laden trucks were set off nearly simultaneously and less than 300 meters apart, killing at least 25 people and wounding 130, said Abdul Karem al-Dabrouni, a provincial council security official in Mosul.

Those killed were all civilians because the trucks were parked in an alley and not near such targets as a police station.

Nobody claimed responsibility for the attack, but it bore the hallmarks of al-Qaida in Iraq and other Sunni insurgents who resent the power Shiites gained after the US-led invasion.

Witnesses described a chaotic scene where survivors searched through rubble of at least 15 houses that were destroyed. Many of the dead and wounded were sleeping on their roofs because lack of electricity and the heat made it too hot to sleep inside.

Qasim Abbas, who represents the Shabak minority as a member of the Nineveh provincial council, blamed security forces for failing to secure the area on the northern outskirts of Mosul, which the US has called the last stronghold of al-Qaida in Iraq.

The Monday bombings is the latest in the line of attacks targeting Shiites. On Friday, a suicide truck bomber devastated a mosque used by members minority Shiite Turkomen, killing 44 people north of Mosul.

Bombs also continue to strike neighborhoods in Baghdad despite security gains.

The first bomb Monday was hidden in a pile of trash when it exploded about 2:30 a.m. near a group of construction workers climbing on steel building for clay jobs in the religiously mixed neighborhood of Amil, killing at least seven people and wounding 16, officials said.

Almost 10 minutes later a car bomb targeted counterterrorism workers elsewhere in western Baghdad, killing at least 12 people and wounding 35, according to police.

Three bombs also exploded in the mainly Sunni neighborhood of Mansour shortly before 7 a.m., wounding a member of a government-backed paramilitary group, an Army official said.

Another bomb exploded 30 minutes later in Karrada in downtown Baghdad, wounding 4 people, a police official said.

That was followed a few hours later by two more roadside bombs in Baghdad—one in southwestern Baghdad and the other in eastern Baghdad—that wounded six people, an Iraqi police official said. AP

THE CROWD at the original Woodstock festival in Bethel, New York, in August 1969. The music festival took place from August 15-18.

Woodstock, 40 yrs ago: When hippies took over

By Sebastian Smith

BETHEL, NEW YORK—Michele Dean won "a nice straight girl" on arrival at the 1969 Woodstock rock festival. Not for long, though.

First to greet the 17-year-old high school graduate were "two guys and a girl coming out of a lake (with no clothes)."

"Goodness," says Dean, an IBM technician now 57, "in those days we didn't expect that."

There came the crowd, almost half a million strong, the trusting dream of the protester force, three days of wild rock music, drugs, and, yet, less room reality.

"I spent the entire time with my mouth wide open," Dean says.

Even now, 40 years later this Aug. 15, she speaks with awe.

To those who attended, Woodstock was near magical—a moment when rules were suspended, hippies took over, rock prevailed. Like Brad Hendrix were at their best, and the world was really, really groovy.

In practical terms, Woodstock really was a miracle, says Mel Lawrence, director of operations at the events in rural upstate New York.

The concert almost fell through when locals at the planned site in Wallkill, near the Lake town of Woodstock, suddenly withdrew permission.

A new site was found at a farm in Bethel, but less than a month remained for install the stage, sound system, infrastructure for tens of thousands of people, and even basics like electricity.

"We had only 28 days to build the site and in that time we experienced rain on about 26 days. We also had many problems, but we managed to make it happen," Lawrence said.

And the challenges were just beginning.

Organizers had planned for about 150,000 people. More than four times the number showed up.

Once the fence came down, the concert became a free-for-all and tough-won to pummel that many skins dressed their vehicles. There was little enclosure to shelter.

"There somewhere on the second day, we ran out of food," Lawrence says.

The wild chaos looming, the rather shambolic organizers, concerned-tone leaders, conservatively minded locals, and crowds of rock fans rose to the occasion.

Local people produced supplies, organizers negotiated to acquire truckloads of paper plates, and hundreds of Dannemora of people were treated in the famous "freak-fast in bed for 400/1967—or, rather, breakfast in a rain-soaked field.

Dean remembers runners' gone, showing their hippie spirit, sharing everything and sharing their of bad vibes.

When two youths started fighting, others simply stuck close, Dean said. "People surrounded them, holding hands and the two guys ended up hugging each other."

Some of that peace and love might have had something to do with the clouds of marijuana smoke.

"I'd say about half the people were on drugs," former policeman Robert Fitt said. "It was everywhere. You didn't have to smoke to get high."

Fitt, now a massively built man of 71, had deployed expecting to perform his normal duties.

He got a quick reality check.

"I was supposed to be there in a uniform," he said, "and by the time I arrived on Friday it was too late. You couldn't get to. Cars couldn't even park." If he had reached his post, how could he have managed the equivalent of a small city?

"You didn't," he answered.

"It was a weird time," Lawrence himself is not sure how he and his friends managed to overcome such odds.

"You can't plan for something like that. It has to be a notion of circumstances that come together in some mysterious way," he said.

"I think it was karma myself. We wanted that site, thrilled, with great, great respect." AFP

IN THIS image from a television broadcast on Aug. 9, a six-story hotel in Chiayan, Taiwan, collapses and plunges into a river after Typhoon Morakot passed through.

Typhoons pound China, Taiwan, Japan

BEIJING—RAIN DELUGED CHINA'S east coast on Monday hours after Typhoon Morakot slammed into the region north of Shanghai, packing winds up to 200 kilometers an hour, destroying hundreds of homes and forcing 1 million people to flee.

Typhoon Morakot and another to rain in Japan were expected to leave killed 13 people.

In China, a 4-year-old child was reported dead in Wenzhou, a city of nearly 1.6 million in Zhejiang province, where officials said the storm had leveled more than 300 homes.

The authorities said the storm was whipping up waves as high as 9 meters in the East China Sea and in the nearby Taiwan Strait, which was battered by the typhoon on Saturday.

Taiwan's Central Weather Bureau said the downpours broke records across the island for the most rainfall in 24 hours. The flooding was said to be the worst in a half century.

Three people were killed and 31 were missing and feared dead, Taiwan's Disaster Relief Center said.

In southeastern Taitung County, a six-story hotel collapsed into a river, but officials said all 300 guests were safe because the building had been evacuated.

In Japan on Monday, at least nine people were killed and nine others were missing after Typhoon Etau dumped the western part of the country, bringing heavy rain that triggered floods and landslides. On Sunday evening, an earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 6.5 rocked Tokyo. REUTERS

Focus on quality care found to reduce deaths in US hospitals

WASHINGTON—HOSPITAL systems that focus on quality care lower death rates and have healthier patients, according to an analysis released on Monday.

The analysis from Thomson Reuters included an 2012 U.S. health systems and found the best-performing 10 percent had 23 percent fewer deaths, 19 percent fewer complications, and 13 percent fewer patient mishaps than the 20 percent worst performers, even though their patients were sicker.

The study, released in Modern Healthcare, shows that higher-quality healthcare is possible if hospital systems make it their primary focus, instead of profits, for example, said Jean Chenoweth, Thomson Reuters senior vice president for performance improvement, who led the research.

Chenoweth's team used data on 12 million Medicare patients using fee measures mortality, medical complications, patient safety, average length of stay and whether hospitals followed standards of care published by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Those standards include giving the right antibiotics and a pneumonia vaccine to patients with pneumonia, and giving antibiotics and blood thinners before surgery to prevent infections and blood clots. Reuters

Under Obama, fewer toxic cleanups

WASHINGTON—FOR YEARS, the Bush administration was criticized for not cleaning up enough of America's most contaminated waste sites. The Obama administration plans to do even less.

Environmental groups and some Democratic lawmakers rallied against President George W. Bush's cleanup record. But this year, they're offering mixed reviews speaking out against a popular president who's considered an ally in the fight or clean up the environment.

In Obama's first two years in office, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) expects to begin work on 40 new cleanups at fewer Superfund sites than in any administration since 1981, according to budget documents and agency records. The EPA estimates it will finish construction to remove the last traces of pollution at 30 sites in 2009 and 32 sites in 2010.

During the eight years of the Bush administration, the agency finished construction at 38 sites on average a year.

"Certainly, we are very disappointed that we can't get our ... numbers up," said Elizabeth Southerland, the acting deputy of the EPA's hazardous waste cleanup program, known as Superfund.

The explanation by the Obama team is the same one put forward time and time again by Bush officials: The sites that are left have become increasingly complicated, contaminated and costly. That means it takes years for sites to reach the final cleanup steps, and as a result fewer are getting there.

Of the 327 contaminated properties still awaiting cleanup under the Superfund law, 40 have progressed to the point where all that's left is removing the last piles of contaminated soil, building a treatment plant to strip the groundwater of toxic pollutants, or capping a landfill so contaminants don't seep into the drinking water or air in surrounding neighborhoods.

At the other 1,000 hazardous waste sites still on the list, construction is finished and the last stages of the cleanup are under way—a process begun before Obama took office.

When EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson explained this trend to a Senate committee this year, Democratic Sen. Barbara Boxer replied: "That's the same answer the Bush administration gave us and I don't buy it." AP

Vast expanses of Arctic ice melting in summer heat

TUKTOYAKTUK, NORTHWEST Territories—The Arctic Ocean has given up tens of thousands square kilometers of ice on Saturday in a relentless summer of melt, with scientists watching through sea-like eyes for a possible record low polar ice cap.

From the barren Arctic shore of this village in Canada's far northwest, 2,414 km north of Seattle, veteran observer Eddie Gruben has seen the summer ice retreating more each decade as the world has warmed. By this week-end the ice edge lay some 130 km at sea.

"Forty years ago, it was 64 km out," said Gruben, 89, patriarch of a local clan watching the changes.

Global average temperatures rose 1 degree Fahrenheit (0.6 degree Celsius) in the past century, but Arctic temperatures rose twice as much or even faster, almost certainly to good part because of manmade greenhouse gases, researchers say.

In late July the mercury soared to almost 86 degrees Fahrenheit (30 degrees Celsius) in this settlement of 900 Inuvialuit, the name for Canada's Arctic Eskimos.

"We've had a really warm," Gruben said. "The kids were swimming in the ocean."

As of Thursday, the US National Snow and Ice Data Center reported, the polar ice cap extended over 6.75 million sq km after having shrunk an average 108,000 sq km a day in July—equivalent to one Indiana or three Belgiums daily.

The rate of melt was similar to that of July 2007, the year when the ice cap dwindled to a record low minimum extent of 4.3 million sq km in September.

In its latest analysis, the Colorado-based NSIDC said Arctic atmospheric conditions this summer have been similar to those of the summer of 2007, including a high-pressure ridge that produced clear skies and strong melt in the Beaufort Sea, the arm of the Arctic Ocean off northern Alaska and northwestern Canada.

Scientists say the makeup of the frozen polar sea has changed significantly in the past few years, as thick multiyear ice has given way to the Arctic's dominant form in this ice that comes and goes with each winter and summer.

The past few years have "signaled a fundamental change in the character of the ice and the Arctic climate," Meier said. AP

INTEGRATED COMPUTER SYSTEMS, INC.

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BUSINESS

Autodesk

EU tax plea seen hurting sugar sector

A TRADER looks at an electronic monitor on the trading floor of the Philippine Stock Exchange in Makati City. Philippine shares prices closed 3.43 percent higher with investor sentiment boosted by US jobs data at the end of last week, dealers said. AP

Alcohol makers hit demand for uniform tax rate

By Dorin L. Lazo

THE P1.3-BILLION SEGMENT OF THE PHILIPPINE sugar industry that produces raw materials for local liquor manufacturers will be hard hit if the government caves in to a European Union demand to impose a uniform tax rate on local and imported liquor.

The livelihood of more than half a million farmers and sugar plantation workers will also be adversely affected by any capitulation to the EU's wishes, according to a group of local alcohol makers.

According to the Philippine Alcohol Producers and Distillers Association, an estimated 40,000 farmers and 100,000 farm and plant workers—in addition to about 5 million of their dependents—rely on the sugar industry which, in turn, relies heavily on the liquor industry.

The group said this as it assailed the "looming threat" by which the government may be spending to the complaint against "discriminatory" taxation lodged by the European Union, the world's biggest exporter of spirits.

"As it is, the local industry is facing the grim specter of a David versus Goliath' fight in the World Trade Organization," said the group's spokesperson, Olivia Lirio-Au.

"Worse, we are three tiers this fight with our eyes covered, are having seen our studied the EEUU complaint," she added. "What we know, so far, is only what we have read in various publications."

The European Union has reportedly filed a complaint with the World Trade Organization against Philippine taxes on imported liquor. It has also asked the Philippine government to implement a single tax rate for local and imported spirits which, at present, are subjected to a tax rate of 30 and 50 percent, respectively.

"But it's alleged that the Philippines discourages sales by European countries and favors like UK's Diageo Plc and France's Pernod Ricard SA through higher taxes on imported distilled spirits.

This was disputed by Lingo-Au who is also president of Emerald Liner since & Co. Inc., who countered in questioning differences between local and imported spirits.

"Should Kin (rum), for instance, be taxed the same (rate) as (Scott made by) Mercedes Benz, simply because they are both cars and serve the same purpose?" she said. "Why, then, should tuba or shane be taxed the same as Cognac, for example, simply because they are both made from alcohol?"

The group claimed they were

BUSINESS, B2

Ashmore offers Petron stake to gov't

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE LONDON-BASED ASHMORE INVESTment Management Ltd. is offering to sell back to the government the 40-percent stake in Petron Corp. that was privatized last year.

While Ashmore wants to stay as a strategic investor in Petron, the foreign fund will not stand in the way if the government really wanted to invest again in the company, said Petron Corp. chair and chief executive officer Ramon Ang, who is also president of San Miguel Corp.

Ashmore's change of heart comes amid criticisms, especially from the National Economic and Development Authority, that gasoline and other oil products in the Philippines were overpriced. Some officials believed that maintaining the government's equity presence in Petron, which supplies over a third of the country's oil requirements, can check against rising pricing by the big players.

"All they have to do is to (officially) signify their intentions and Ashmore will sell it back to them—at cost or even lower," Ang said.

If it would suit the government, Ang said Ashmore would even be willing to sell back the Petron stake over a 10-year payment installment.

ASHMORE, B4

WORLD BANK SUPPORT

Irrigation gets $70-M loan

By Michelle V. Rosca

THE WORLD BANK WILL EXTEND A $70-million loan (about P3.4 billion) to the Philippines to improve the institutional capacity of the National Irrigation Authority, which the foreign lender said was meant to improve irrigation in the countryside.

Improving the delivery of irrigation services was necessary to help ease the ill effects of the global recession on poor households.

Officials from the World Bank and the government signed the loan agreement last Aug. 7, the international lender announced yesterday.

The World Bank said higher food supply through improved agricultural output would benefit poor families. Such those who are dependent on farming for their income and those who cannot afford higher food prices.

There are projections that the global recession has increased the country's poverty incidence, which stood at a third of the country's population as of 2006.

The World Bank said the loan would help fund the first phase of a 15-year program called the "Participatory Irrigation Development Project," which is valued at $134 mil-

IRRIGATION, B4

Auto sales down 2.4% in July

By Abigail L. Ho

THE NUMBER OF VEHICLES SOLD IN THE first seven months fell 2.4 percent despite a 6.3-percent growth in sales from June to July according to documents from the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc. and the Truck Manufacturers Association.

Industry figures showed that vehicle sales in the January-July period eased to 71,086 units from the 73,299 units sold in the same period last year.

Sales for July alone fell 0.2 percent to 11,587 units from 11,605 units a year ago. July sales, however, were higher than June sales of 10,908 units.

Commercial vehicle sales, which accounted for 54.6 percent of overall sales as of end-July, slumped 3.9 percent to 46,251 units from 48,072 units in the same period in 2008.

AUTO, B4

Bidding war perks up stocks

Meralco, Philex Mining lead market climb

By Doris C. Dumlao

PRIME PROSPECTS OF A bidding war for control of two land owning juggernauts—Philex Mining Corp. and Manila Electric Co.—yesterday perked up investor interest in local stocks and boosted the main share index by 2.42 percent.

The Philippine Stock Exchange index surged to 2,930.38, with the climb also influenced by an upbeat reading in third-quarter gross domestic product (GDP) data showing fewer-than-expected job cuts and a surprise drop in the unemployment rate.

For the second consecutive day, Philex was the most actively traded stock, rising another 10 percent to close at P9.90 and accounted for 5.62 percent of the P6.8-billion worth of trades.

San Miguel Corp. president Ramon S. Ang earlier expressed interest to acquire a significant government-owned block in the mining firm, when First Pacific chief executive Manuel V. Pangilinan already controls a 33-percent stake as a personal investment.

Telecommunications giant PLDT also rose 1.4 percent to close at 2,480 alongside the gains posted by its depositary receipts traded on the New York Stock Exchange.

Meralco, which has retreated after breaking past P500 two weeks ago, also rose 0.62 percent to close at P32.50, or 1.2 percent higher at P360.50. It was the second most actively traded stock, amounting to 6.35 percent of total value turnover.

The war of Ayala Corp. and San Miguel also attracted plans to vie for the 13.4-percent remaining stake in Meralco held by the Lopez family, a small but significant block that can topple a tender offer and determine a clear-cut majority control in the utility.

San Miguel currently has 27 percent voting rights in Meralco, while the First Pacific group, through PLDT and other units, controls at least 33 percent.

"It now seems more probable that the winner between the two will read up with a vast majority of the shares in the utility in the current situation and as the rate developments are occurring, it is likely that the buyer of the remaining Lopez stake will have to make a tender offer," said AB Capital Securities analyst Primer Anthony Young.

Philex and Meralco-led industrial-led PSE index weights of 2.71 percent and 8.67 percent. They are both on the radar screens of First Pacific and the Ang-led San Miguel.

EU tax ...

From page B1

only informed about the EU's complaint last July 30 and have had no time to prepare for the meeting called by the Department of Trade and Industry yesterday afternoon to discuss "procedural and substantive" issues on the matter.

If the government agrees to accede to the EU's demand, the biggest loser will be the local sugar industry, which produces around 900,000 metric tons of molasses a year for the industry, she said.

This is equivalent to about 480 million proof liters of alcohol with an estimated value of P13.5 billion.

"We believe that by these numbers alone, the alcohol industry and others depending on it must be heard and defended by the government against any kind of foreign pressure or threat," she added.

Aside here Distilleria Limtuaco, the group aligned against the EU's demand includes Asian Alcohol Corp., Absolute Chemicals Corp., Tanduay Distillers, Consolidated Distillers of the Far East, Emperador Distillers Inc., Bo Sam Alcohol Corp., Bethany Distillery, Real Distillery, Tanduay Distillery, Alco Distillery and Intoxicating Pharmaceuticals.

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Sun Life Financial	Sun FirstLink I / Sun FirstStrike I (Unit Price)	
	Aug. 07, 2009	July 31, 2009
Bond Fund (Phil. Peso)	1.4173	1.4119
Equity Fund (Phil. Peso)	1.7368	1.7580
Bond Fund (US Dollar)	1.3201	1.3150
Balanced Fund (Phil. Peso)	1.6080	1.6029
Money Market Fund (Phil. Peso)	1.0451	1.0448
SunFUTURE 2020 (Phil. Peso)	1.1420	1.1408
SunFUTURE 2025 (Phil. Peso)	1.1169	1.1222
SunFUTURE 2030 (Phil. Peso)	1.1233	1.1283
SunFUTURE 2035 (Phil. Peso)	1.1216	1.1279
SunFUTURE 2040 (Phil. Peso)	1.1228	1.1292
Sun Prestige (US Dollar)	0.9899	0.9815

Global Strategic Valuation

October 7 - 9 and 14 - 16, 2009

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Center for Continuing Education

Philippine Stock Exchange

As of August 10, 2009

Currencies

August 10, 2009 Country	Unit	Sale Equivalent	Buying Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	1.00000	1.00000	47.7900
Japan	Yen	0.011139	0.011139	5.3227
United Kingdom	Pound	1.63170	1.63170	77.9700
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.129010	0.129010	6.1651
Switzerland	Franc	0.914300	0.914300	43.7000
Canada	Dollar	0.914300	0.914300	43.7000
Singapore	Dollar	0.690400	0.690400	32.9900
Australia	Dollar	0.838300	0.838300	40.0600
Bahrain	Dinar	2.650000	2.650000	126.6500
Saudi Arabia	Riyal	0.266700	0.266700	12.7400
Brunei	Dollar	0.690400	0.690400	32.9900
Netherlands	Euro	1.440000	1.440000	68.8100
Thailand	Baht	0.031200	0.031200	1.4910
UAE	Dirham	0.272400	0.272400	13.0200
EU	Euro	1.440000	1.440000	68.8100
Korea	Won	0.000851	0.000851	0.0407
China	Yuan	0.146500	0.146500	7.0000
Denmark	Krone	0.193300	0.193300	9.2400
India	Rupee	0.020900	0.020900	0.9985
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.291700	0.291700	13.9400
New Zealand	Dollar	0.670400	0.670400	32.0400
Sweden	Krona	0.138200	0.138200	6.6050
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.031400	0.031400	1.5000

A vexing problem

STOCK PRICES APPEARED TO HAVE LOST momentum as it closed trading last Friday, and what appeared to have bitten Wall Street investors earlier four exercises bullishness had bitten local investors too by then, for the local market on the whole was really making small gains only until it looked lower toward the weekend.

And, therefore, like the long-awaited special event that made everyone anxious if it will ever happen, even with those who have almost seen off to the market for so long, it seems that a market correction was happening finally.

End of week 9

If I were to draw some lessons from the market riders to our virtual game, the ending rails of The Oracle in Week 9 could be one strategy we may follow under the prevailing situation. He was both playing safe by attempting on rails profit on some stock picks that he will may have snatched peak and opening up new positions in stocks that may still have room for growth.

In the early morning hours of Thursday, Sep. 6, from his distant seat in the Middle East, he sent five trading orders for execution that day. These were: 1) buy Pantry Inc. (PAE) 10,000 shares @ P2.70 a share, 2) sell/sig Liberty Telecoms of 50,000 shares @ P3.65, 3) sell his Ayala Corp. (AC) of 150 shares @ P323, 4) buy Oriental Technologies (OTC) of 15,000 shares @ P1.58, and 5) buy Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. (RCB) of 2,000 @ P17.25 each.

Unfortunately, his selling prices were just too high for the day that they never had a chance to be sold at all. On the other hand, all of his buying orders were done. He had enough cash to buy them as if he had all along planned it at that. Therefore, he has now nine active stocks in his investment portfolio. Notwithstanding this, The Oracle remains Women's Uno.

Off Trader, who continues to stand tall in neutral prices, has a slightly different track. She is attempting to lighten up her load. She's squaring some positions for cash to boost her risk load. On the euro-day Thursday but almost at opening bell, she posted two selling orders. These were to unload all of her Globe Telecom (GLO) of 800 shares @ P1,150 and four Digital Telecommunications (DIGT) 2.1 of 300,000 shares @ P1.34.

Like The Oracle, her prices were just too high for the day. None were done as she wanted it to be. Therefore, she remains to still have the same stocks in her investment basket.

Auto . . .

From page B1

Among all sub-categories under nonmetallic sedan, Honda Cars Philippines Inc., which sold 10,139 units in the January-July period, 14.9 percent higher than the 8,823 units sold last year.

Isuzu Philippines Inc., which sold 10,139 units in the January-July period, 14.9 percent higher than the 8,823 units sold last year.

Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. sold 10,139 units in the January-July period, 14.9 percent higher than the 8,823 units sold last year.

Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corp. sold 10,139 units in the January-July period, 14.9 percent higher than the 8,823 units sold last year.

Nissan Philippines Inc. sold 10,139 units in the January-July period, 14.9 percent higher than the 8,823 units sold last year.

Ford Philippines Inc. sold 10,139 units in the January-July period, 14.9 percent higher than the 8,823 units sold last year.

Hyundai Asia Resources Inc. sold 10,139 units in the January-July period, 14.9 percent higher than the 8,823 units sold last year.

Kia Motors Philippines Inc. sold 10,139 units in the January-July period, 14.9 percent higher than the 8,823 units sold last year.

Suzuki Philippines Inc. sold 10,139 units in the January-July period, 14.9 percent higher than the 8,823 units sold last year.

Volkswagen Philippines Inc. sold 10,139 units in the January-July period, 14.9 percent higher than the 8,823 units sold last year.

Mercedes-Benz Philippines Inc. sold 10,139 units in the January-July period, 14.9 percent higher than the 8,823 units sold last year.

BMW Philippines Inc. sold 10,139 units in the January-July period, 14.9 percent higher than the 8,823 units sold last year.

Audi Philippines Inc. sold 10,139 units in the January-July period, 14.9 percent higher than the 8,823 units sold last year.

Porsche Philippines Inc. sold 10,139 units in the January-July period, 14.9 percent higher than the 8,823 units sold last year.

Jaguar Philippines Inc. sold 10,139 units in the January-July period, 14.9 percent higher than the 8,823 units sold last year.

Land Rover Philippines Inc. sold 10,139 units in the January-July period, 14.9 percent higher than the 8,823 units sold last year.

Volvo Philippines Inc. sold 10,139 units in the January-July period, 14.9 percent higher than the 8,823 units sold last year.

Saab Philippines Inc. sold 10,139 units in the January-July period, 14.9 percent higher than the 8,823 units sold last year.

Fiat Philippines Inc. sold 10,139 units in the January-July period, 14.9 percent higher than the 8,823 units sold last year.

Alfa Romeo Philippines Inc. sold 10,139 units in the January-July period, 14.9 percent higher than the 8,823 units sold last year.

Maserati Philippines Inc. sold 10,139 units in the January-July period, 14.9 percent higher than the 8,823 units sold last year.

Bentley Philippines Inc. sold 10,139 units in the January-July period, 14.9 percent higher than the 8,823 units sold last year.

Rolls-Royce Philippines Inc. sold 10,139 units in the January-July period, 14.9 percent higher than the 8,823 units sold last year.

Aston Martin Philippines Inc. sold 10,139 units in the January-July period, 14.9 percent higher than the 8,823 units sold last year.

Lotus Philippines Inc. sold 10,139 units in the January-July period, 14.9 percent higher than the 8,823 units sold last year.

McLaren Philippines Inc. sold 10,139 units in the January-July period, 14.9 percent higher than the 8,823 units sold last year.

Ferrari Philippines Inc. sold 10,139 units in the January-July period, 14.9 percent higher than the 8,823 units sold last year.

Lamborghini Philippines Inc. sold 10,139 units in the January-July period, 14.9 percent higher than the 8,823 units sold last year.

Bugatti Philippines Inc. sold 10,139 units in the January-July period, 14.9 percent higher than the 8,823 units sold last year.

Pagani Philippines Inc. sold 10,139 units in the January-July period, 14.9 percent higher than the 8,823 units sold last year.

Koenigsegg Philippines Inc. sold 10,139 units in the January-July period, 14.9 percent higher than the 8,823 units sold last year.

SSC Philippines Inc. sold 10,139 units in the January-July period, 14.9 percent higher than the 8,823 units sold last year.

Hennessey Philippines Inc. sold 10,139 units in the January-July period, 14.9 percent higher than the 8,823 units sold last year.

Shelby Philippines Inc. sold 10,139 units in the January-July period, 14.9 percent higher than the 8,823 units sold last year.

Saleen Philippines Inc. sold 10,139 units in the January-July period, 14.9 percent higher than the 8,823 units sold last year.

Roush Philippines Inc. sold 10,139 units in the January-July period, 14.9 percent higher than the 8,823 units sold last year.

Mustang Philippines Inc. sold 10,139 units in the January-July period, 14.9 percent higher than the 8,823 units sold last year.

Camaro Philippines Inc. sold 10,139 units in the January-July period, 14.9 percent higher than the 8,823 units sold last year.

Corvette Philippines Inc. sold 10,139 units in the January-July period, 14.9 percent higher than the 8,823 units sold last year.

Viper Philippines Inc. sold 10,139 units in the January-July period, 14.9 percent higher than the 8,823 units sold last year.

Challenger Philippines Inc. sold 10,139 units in the January-July period, 14.9 percent higher than the 8,823 units sold last year.

Charger Philippines Inc. sold 10,139 units in the January-July period, 14.9 percent higher than the 8,823 units sold last year.

Magnum Philippines Inc. sold 10,139 units in the January-July period, 14.9 percent higher than the 8,823 units sold last year.

Durango Philippines Inc. sold 10,139 units in the January-July period, 14.9 percent higher than the 8,823 units sold last year.

Dakota Philippines Inc. sold 10,139 units in the January-July period, 14.9 percent higher than the 8,823 units sold last year.

Ram Philippines Inc. sold 10,139 units in the January-July period, 14.9 percent higher than the 8,823 units sold last year.

Jeep Philippines Inc. sold 10,139 units in the January-July period, 14.9 percent higher than the 8,823 units sold last year.

Chrysler Philippines Inc. sold 10,139 units in the January-July period, 14.9 percent higher than the 8,823 units sold last year.

Dodge Philippines Inc. sold 10,139 units in the January-July period, 14.9 percent higher than the 8,823 units sold last year.

Plymouth Philippines Inc. sold 10,139 units in the January-July period, 14.9 percent higher than the 8,823 units sold last year.

Oldsmobile Philippines Inc. sold 10,139 units in the January-July period, 14.9 percent higher than the 8,823 units sold last year.

Pontiac Philippines Inc. sold 10,139 units in the January-July period, 14.9 percent higher than the 8,823 units sold last year.

Buick Philippines Inc. sold 10,139 units in the January-July period, 14.9 percent higher than the 8,823 units sold last year.

GMC Philippines Inc. sold 10,139 units in the January-July period, 14.9 percent higher than the 8,823 units sold last year.

Hummer Philippines Inc. sold 10,139 units in the January-July period, 14.9 percent higher than the 8,823 units sold last year.

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Lamborghini Philippines Inc. sold 10,139 units in the January-July period, 14.9 percent higher than the 8,823 units sold last year.

Bugatti Philippines Inc. sold 10,139 units in the January-July period, 14.9 percent higher than the 8,823 units sold last year.

Pagani Philippines Inc. sold 10,139 units in the January-July period, 14.9 percent higher than the 8,823 units sold last year.

Koenigsegg Philippines Inc. sold 10,139 units in the January-July period, 14.9 percent higher than the 8,823 units sold last year.

SSC Philippines Inc. sold 10,139 units in the January-July period, 14.9 percent higher than the 8,823 units sold last year.

Hennessey Philippines Inc. sold 10,139 units in the January-July period, 14.9 percent higher than the 8,823 units sold last year.

Shelby Philippines Inc. sold 10,139 units in the January-July period, 14.9 percent higher than the 8,823 units sold last year.

Saleen Philippines Inc. sold 10,139 units in the January-July period, 14.9 percent higher than the 8,823 units sold last year.

Roush Philippines Inc. sold 10,139 units in the January-July period, 14.9 percent higher than the 8,823 units sold last year.

Mustang Philippines Inc. sold 10,139 units in the January-July period, 14.9 percent higher than the 8,823 units sold last year.

Camaro Philippines Inc. sold 10,139 units in the January-July period, 14.9 percent higher than the 8,823 units sold last year.

Corvette Philippines Inc. sold 10,139 units in the January-July period, 14.9 percent higher than the 8,823 units sold last year.

Viper Philippines Inc. sold 10,139 units in the January-July period, 14.9 percent higher than the 8,823 units sold last year.

Challenger Philippines Inc. sold 10,139 units in the January-July period, 14.9 percent higher than the 8,823 units sold last year.

Charger Philippines Inc. sold 10,139 units in the January-July period, 14.9 percent higher than the 8,823 units sold last year.

Magnum Philippines Inc. sold 10,139 units in the January-July period, 14.9 percent higher than the 8,823 units sold last year.

Durango Philippines Inc. sold 10,139 units in the January-July period, 14.9 percent higher than the 8,823 units sold last year.

Dakota Philippines Inc. sold 10,139 units in the January-July period, 14.9 percent higher than the 8,823 units sold last year.

Ram Philippines Inc. sold 10,139 units in the January-July period, 14.9 percent higher than the 8,823 units sold last year.

Jeep Philippines Inc. sold 10,139 units in the January-July period, 14.9 percent higher than the 8,823 units sold last year.

Chrysler Philippines Inc. sold 10,139 units in the January-July period, 14.9 percent higher than the 8,823 units sold last year.

Dodge Philippines Inc. sold 10,139 units in the January-July period, 14.9 percent higher than the 8,823 units sold last year.

Plymouth Philippines Inc. sold 10,139 units in the January-July period, 14.9 percent higher than the 8,823 units sold last year.

Oldsmobile Philippines Inc. sold 10,139 units in the January-July period, 14.9 percent higher than the 8,823 units sold last year.

Pontiac Philippines Inc. sold 10,139 units in the January-July period, 14.9 percent higher than the 8,823 units sold last year.

Buick Philippines Inc. sold 10,139 units in the January-July period, 14.9 percent higher than the 8,823 units sold last year.

GMC Philippines Inc. sold 10,139 units in the January-July period, 14.9 percent higher than the 8,823 units sold last year.

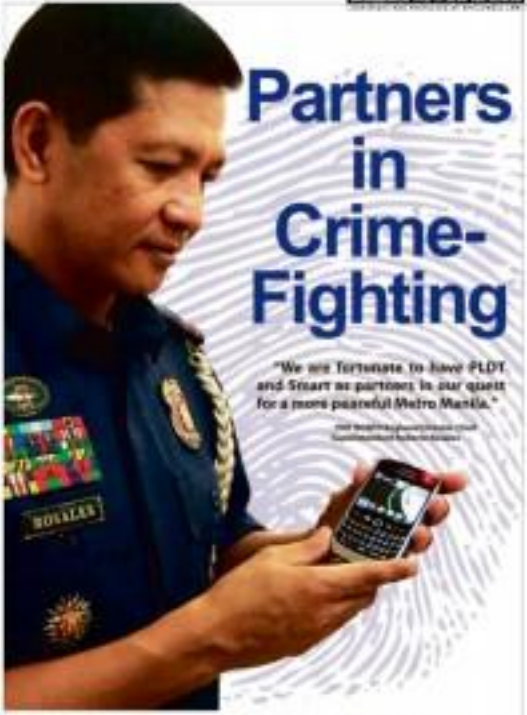
Hummer Philippines Inc. sold 10,139 units in the January-July period, 14.9 percent higher than the 8,823 units sold last year.

Saturn Philippines Inc. sold 10,139 units in the January-July period, 14.9 percent higher than the 8,823 units sold last year.

MARKET RIDER

Den Saavedra

Other than the two, none among the other market riders in the virtual game did add-



PLDT/Smart and NCRPO share a commitment for a safer metro

A key memorandum of agreement was signed between PLDT Smart and the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) at Camp Bagong Diwa, in Bicutan, Taguig, Metro Manila.

PNP NCRPO Regional Director Chief Superintendent Roberto Rosales opened the seminar-signing event with a statement on the acquisition of 75 BlackBerry units by NCRPO officers from PLDT Smart. The officers and gentlemen in the room were all very interested in learning how to use the latest gadget in communication technology.

"We are glad to have Smart and PLDT as our partners in fighting crime", Rosales said as he began the meeting.

The general further added, "This will improve peace and order in Metro Manila, and I hope more business entities will follow in the footsteps of PLDT and Smart."

Napoleon Ramos, EVP and Head of Corporate Business Group at PLDT, replied to General Rosales' welcoming remarks with an equally enthusiastic response, "We are very impressed at how your administration has embraced technology throughout the organization. I offer our expression of thanks for allowing us to partner with you. We partner with government organizations that appreciate the benefit of technology, and how it can help them accomplish their mission. Our commitment to support NCRPO doesn't end here with the signing, but also in training the users."

Rosales explained that apart from the initial 75 BlackBerry units acquired for NCRPO officers, all local government units are also looking into acquiring more units this year.

It's no surprise that this progressive officer responsible for the high-tech makeover of the Manila Police District, who armed 124 mobile patrols in Manila with Global Positioning System (GPS) units and installed 3-lens circuit TV) (CCTV monitors at the headquarters, has thought of arming his men and women with the latest BlackBerry mobile phones.

When asked why he favored the BlackBerry product, Rosales, the consummate professional quickly acted here, "It is the most economical and most practical device compared to other alternative mobile devices."

Rosales also said that in looking for a service provider, he parked the Internet and did his own research, and discovered the BlackBerry product with mobile services from Smart and PLDT.

On other technology devices he said, "I researched and saw that the laptop is okay, but it cannot take the heat of the Philippine climate, so I settled the Internet, and I learned the BlackBerry is handy, practical and economical."

The police organization will soon be fully equipped with more devices for roaming and fighting criminal elements in the city.

The NCRPO BlackBerry units are equipped with a special feature integrated with the LTO and NBI that allows the police officer to obtain the home address of a licensed owner of a particular vehicle in question. The units also have the capability to determine if that individual's plate number matches certain suspect plate numbers, or if an individual's license has expired. It also allows for integrated real-time verification if that individual has a standing warrant of arrest.

When a certain television correspondent inquired if this special feature might be a warning to the public on the government's tracking of its citizens, General Rosales reassured the journalist, "The general public need not worry about this. It's just part of keeping the streets of Metro Manila safe."

Seated (L-R): SMART Wireless Corporate Business Group Head Dick Feeny, PLDT VP and Corporate Relationship Management Head Ray Castelenia, PLDT VVP and Head of Corporate Business Group Napoleon Ramos, PCSupt. Roberto L. Rosales, PNP-NCRPO Regional Director, PCSupt. Roberto Fernandez and PCSupt. Jose Irene Delos Santos (Standing) (L-R): SMART Segment Marketing Head Debbie Lorayo-Lukasavitz, SMART Wireless Corporate Business Group Product Specialist Leghen Fragata, PLDT Relationship Manager Mel Mendozcarin, PLDT Government Relationship Business Head Helen Lim, PCSupt. Rodolfo Magdilay, PCSupt. Lito Calingasan, PCSupt. James Calungsod and PCSupt. Samuel Pagaduan

Using "the psychology of color" Rosales' bright yellow and orange office offers a cheerful working environment

L-R): PLDT Government Relationship Business Head Anton Lim, SMART Wireless Corporate Business Group Head Dick Feeny, PLDT VP and Corporate Relationship Management Head Ray Castelenia, PLDT Relationship Manager Mel Mendozcarin and PNP NCRPO Regional Director PCSupt Roberto L. Rosales

Economist urges BSP to close SDA facility

Banks asked to use funds for lending

By Michelle V. Ramos

THE FORMER CENTRAL BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES IS urged to close down its special deposit account facility, whose measly P600 billion worth of the banking sector's liquidity is parked as deposits and keeps from helping fuel the growth of the economy.

An economist from the University of Asia and the Pacific said the thirty-day 3% deposits in the SDA facility was defeating the objective of the central bank's other lending facilities, which are necessary to counter the economic downturn, he said.

"The BSP should close the facility. Doing so will help fund more investment activities and build the capital market," UNAP economist professor Victor Abella told the Inquirer.

Data showed that as of end-June this year, placements in the central bank's SDA facility reached P584.9 billion, up by P139 billion from year-ago level.

Abella said the growth in SDA placements was enormous, noting that these surpassed records in 2008 and in 2007.

SDA placements have been rising substantially despite the slashing of the BSP's key policy rate to historic low of 4 percent. SDA accounts earn an interest of 50 basis points lower than the BSP's overnight borrowing rate.

Abella said it was expected of banks to place their funds in the SDA, whether they earn substantially or not, than use these funds to engage in the riskier business of lending, he said the SDA facility was keeping banks from contributing more to economic growth.

He said the BSP will has room to cut its key policy rates, as it could also reduce the interest rate on SDA deposits.

Given that the BSP is "[very conservative]" in bringing down its key policy rate, Abella said, it might as well dismiss the SDA facility to free banks to lend more.

He said the BSP is the only central bank that has an SDA facility.

Monetary officials, however, earlier said that banks are still have unlendable deposits for lending. BSP Deputy Governor Nestor Espenilla Jr. said the fact that bank lending was still growing at a double-digit pace showed that credit was still healthy and supportive of efforts to boost the economy.

Data from the BSP showed that outstanding loans by the country's universal banks, embedding inter-bank loans, amounted to P3.99 trillion as of mid-June, up 14.3 percent from that to the same period last year.

Meanwhile, Metrobank posted a net income of P2.31 billion for the period and contributed P423 million to MPIC's core net income.

MPIC's net income excluded P608 million, while the hospital group earned P260 million, of which P75 million was contributed to MPIC.

During the first six months of 2009, Metrobank reported an 11.9 percent increase in billed volume coupled with an average effective tax-rate increase of 10.6 percent.

The improvement in billings volume and reported net incomes of MPTC was attributed to the higher than expected traffic reported by North Luzon Expressway concession holder Manila North Tollways Corp. and the higher contribution of NLEx operator Tollways Management Corp.

The hospital unit holds interests in, owner and operator of the Makati Medical Center and Cardinal Santos Hospital Managers Corp. (operator of Cardinal Santos Medical Center and a wholly owned subsidiary of Medical Doctors) reported a 33 percent increase in consolidated revenue to P9.16 billion.

The consolidated revenues net income of 2008 reached P1.70 million, up from P1.23 million last year.

Ban on the run

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Bawad III

Look at that—in this country under this new administration of Gloriastra, our beloved government makes a decision and suddenly the people suffer as the banana industry (P300 million yearly exports to Japan alone), even before the government can bear to side! Unsolicited!

What is more—the committee's resolution on hasty aerial spraying involved the signature of Health Secretary Francisco Duque.

Nobody can say he runs, but apparently these guys at the DOH believe they are quick.

Therefore the almighty DOH, this rule and enforcement has put the entire republic in pro-peace fanatics in charity on the can.

* * *

THE DOH-FUNDED study, which became the basis for the DOH's evacuation to ban aerial spraying, was in very hasty an another study done by a certain Romeo Quijano. In effect, the DOH spent my tax money to verify somebody else's drain of dumbs and illnesses caused by aerial spraying.

Sever failed that Quijano presented in New Zealand certain misleads where he claimed were made sensational ill by aerial spraying, not to mention two individuals whom he claimed to have died.

In the latest meeting of the DOH committee, the organization of Iloilo chemical conglomer, called Graphic, showed a little video clip.

It featured all kinds individuals that were supposedly "seriously ill" or supposedly "dead."

Why did the DOH not just call on those individuals from the very beginning? The DOH could have saved that P1.5 million it spent for the useless study.

Well, that is taking too much of this care administration, I guess.

* * *

THE DOH-BELIEVED BANANA EXPORT industry—with its close to 100,000 plantation workers—is up in arms against the Department of Health.

The DOH spent P1.5 million (in tax money) for a study to verify claims of health hazard caused by aerial spraying of fungicide at the banana growing areas.

The study recommended the banning of aerial spraying, which has been done by the industry for the past hundred years or so.

A few months ago, the DOH group—known as IACEH (or Interagency Committee on Environmental Health)—met to discuss the DOH-funded study.

The meeting was technically so-so, the IACEH forgot to invite the groups most affected by the aerial spraying ban—i.e. the banana and the farm chemical industries.

Still, IACEH had the foresight to have some NGOs present, and they were hogging the show by attacking the ban, misrepresenting its environmental groups.

When an earth-implied the DOH committee to keep the banana industry out of loop, while it sees for the so-called NGOs?

Well, better is an ass, it was peanut butter!

* * *

IN THE IMBR meeting, according to the DOH committee, it was also taking up complaints against "interself" peanut butter.

In a case in a million-happy customers, those same NGOs agitating for the ban of aerial spraying, were also complaining against peanut butter. That was, again, according the DOH committee!

When the banana and the farm chemical industries raised hell to protest the ban, the DOH committee but a "dangerous court," the DOH committee invited their representatives to the next meeting.

As a result of the earlier meeting, the one in which the DOH forgot to invite the banana and farm chemical industries, the DOH committee were about to make a fine decision to recommend the ban. Wow!

* * *

THE BANANA industry and its exported net incomes of DP7C was attributed to the higher than expected traffic reported by North Luzon Expressway concession holder Manila North Tollways Corp. and the higher contribution of NLEx operator Tollways Management Corp.

The consolidated revenues net income of 2008 reached P1.70 million, up from P1.23 million last year.

Metro Pacific profit surged to ₱1.7B in January-June

By Doris C. Dumlao

INFRASTRUCTURE HOLDING FIRM METRO Pacific Investments Corp. booked a consolidated net profit of P1.7 billion in the first semester due to the strong performance of its infrastructure distribution and hospital businesses.

This was more than 400 percent higher than the P330 million in net profit reported in the same period last year.

Excluding the recurring gains from foreign exchange adjustments, MPIC's consolidated core net income was placed at P716 million, up from only P10 million in the first six months of 2008.

With the continued strong performance of operating units Manila Electric Power Service, Meralco Industrial Engineering and various hospital units, MPIC is confident of surpassing its full-year income target.

"We are therefore prepared to raise our guidance core income for 2009 to P1.5 billion, from earlier guidance of P1.2 billion. We foresee income from this guidance number any impact of a possible intervention in Meralco during the year," MPIC chair Manuel V. Pangilinan said in a statement.

Manuel V. Pangilinan

Manulife posted a net income of P2.31 billion for the period and contributed P423 million to MPIC's core net income.

MPIC's net income excluded P608 million, while the hospital group earned P260 million, of which P75 million was contributed to MPIC.

During the first six months of 2009, Manulife reported an 11.9 percent increase in billed volume coupled with an average effective tax-rate increase of 10.6 percent.

The improvement in billings volume and reported net incomes of MPTC was attributed to the higher than expected traffic reported by North Luzon Expressway concession holder Manila North Tollways Corp. and the higher contribution of NLEx operator Tollways Management Corp.

The hospital unit holds interests in, owner and operator of the Makati Medical Center and Cardinal Santos Medical Managers Corp. (operator of Cardinal Santos Medical Center and a wholly owned subsidiary of Medical Doctors) reported a 33 percent increase in consolidated revenue to P9.16 billion.

The consolidated revenues net income of 2008 reached P1.70 million, up from P1.23 million last year.

ATS first half net income up to ₱496M

By Mike Morallos

ASIATIC TRANSPORT SYSTEM said its net income in the first semester of the year jumped to P496.1 million from only P15.8 million a year ago, fueled by solid gains from domestic cargo volumes and passenger traffic handled.

It is also known as the Philippine Stock Exchange presenting ATS said consolidated revenue also rose by 3 percent to P6.2 billion in the first semester.

ATS' freight business, which accounts for the bulk of the revenues, dropped 10 percent due to declines in its international chartering service. In contrast, the volume of domestic shipments increased by 16 percent.

Compared to last year when some of its ships were under repair, ATS had its full fleet in service in the first half.

Simonds Dawson Inc. (SDC), comprised of US warehouse could spend P1 million on land in one blow

* * *

THE MANILA International Airport Authority (Miaa) is doing what it calls a "nationalization program" at the Ninoy International Airport at the Nido Foundation—it is all about "security."

For instance, Miaa wants to redesign the layout of the airport to make sure but more space for the E-mail security check.

That area happens to be occupied by Duty Free Shop, a government corporation owned by the Philippine Tourism Authority.

The Miaa reasoned to relocate Duty Free, and to do it, it must ask other airport concessionaires to make room.

What do you know, only one of those airport concessionaires defied the Miaa. Well, who is afraid of the Miaa, anyway? It is only the very same outfit that grants concessions at the Manila airports.

The defiant concessionaire is Transnational Products, or TNP, which operates two snack bars and gets free use of the executive lounge at the Nido. The Miaa was asking TNP to give up only the lounge space.

Because of that, from what I gathered, TNP filed an injunction case before the Manila regional trial court against the airport concession.

Since the court did not issue a TRO against the renovation, the Miaa went on to tunnel the snack downstairs of TNP personnel.

Subsequently, when construction has work in the area already started, the court suddenly changed its mind and issued a "cease and desist" order to Miaa, ordering it to allow TNP to use the space for 28 more days.

TNP employees went on to disparage the construction setup to the area.

And all these, ladies and gentlemen, were happening at the country's premier airport, which serves thousands upon thousands of tourists and business travelers, not to mention the millions of OFWs.

Is there any good news of this drag called "public investment?" Apparently, not!

Project Reference No. 2007-1808 Rev. 2009-079

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID (BAR)

The Department of Tourism (DOT), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites PHILIPPINE nationals to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following project:

Name of Project	Procurement of Refurbishing/Building Completion
Project Description	Procurement of Expertise, Supervision and Labor for the Refurbishing/Building Completion including the Information and Application systems of the Department. The manufacturer of the equipment through its authorized distributor/supplier should be duly accredited/licensed and/or Certification.
Approved Budget for the Contract	₱ 2,400,000.00

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project cost; training, and have key personnel assignment (name, license or years' experience) available for the execution of the project. The criteria to be used by BAC in the eligibility check (if prospective bidder) shall be a non-discretionary "pass/fail" basis. As such, non-submission of any of the eligibility requirements will result in the disqualification of prospective bidders. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid will be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification, and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

	Activities	Schedule
1.	Issuance of Bid Documents	13-14 August 2009, 0900 and 1300 hrs. 8:00 until 5:00 PM, Mon. 3rd fl re Tues DOT Bldg. 1148 Roxas Blvd cor. Vito Cruz, Manila
2.	Pre-bid Conference	20 August 2009, 10:30 a.m. Training Room, Rm. 103 Ground Floor DOT Bldg. 1148 Roxas Blvd cor. Vito Cruz, Manila
3.	Submission of Eligibility Requirements, Technical and Financial Proposals	0900-1:00 p.m. only, 04 September 2009 Mon. 3rd fl. Tues DOT Bldg. 1148 Roxas Blvd cor. Vito Cruz, Manila
4.	Bid Opening (for determination of eligibility only)	04 September 2009 (1:30 p.m.) BAC 2nd Floor DOT Bldg. 1148 Roxas Blvd cor. Vito Cruz, Manila

Complete sets of Eligibility Requirements are the documents may be obtained at the BAC Secretariat on Francisco Canal Jr. Rm. 216, DOT Bldg., 1148 Roxas Blvd., Manila, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of ₱ 5,000.00. Eligibility requirements and bids shall be submitted/or sealed envelopes addressed to the BAC Chairman.

The Department of Tourism reserves the right to reject any or all bids, declare a failure of bidding or not award the contract to the lowest calculated bidder for the contract, without thereby incurring any liability, and make its assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of the bidding. Likewise, the Department of Tourism may waive any minor defect thereof and accept the offer most advantageous to the government. Further, the Department of Tourism assumes no responsibility whatsoever to corporations or individuals/bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) Ramon Gerardo P. Puthlandt
BAC Chairman

PIO - August 11, 2009

Irrigation

From page B1

tion (about P5.5 billion). The government said it will provide the counterpart fund to the World Bank's loan.

The first phase involves the conduct of training to enhance the National communities' total mobility of the NIA. It also covers the enhancement of the government agency's capacity to fill its functions.

"This project has world low cost system of irrigation and growth work for the poor, a majority of whom are farmers who will directly benefit from this project," said World Bank Country Director for the Philippines Bert Hofman.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said the loan was timely given the urgent need to improve irrigation. He said the government also also help ease the burden of the national government caused by state-owned firms that were financially dependent on it.

"[The loan program] is not a one-time measure, it's a long-term solution. It will also reduce NIA's reliance on government subsidies and free up resources for much needed projects," Teves said in the same statement.

Market Rider

From page B1

(usual index at the end of Week 9. Below are the overall performance standings of the eleven players as of the end of Week 9. (See table)

Bonzara line spin

In yesterday, the PSEi closed lower at the 2,783 psychological level but Friday it failed to make a follow through to break out from its recent record high of 2,894 and turned relatively lower than the support level of 2,779 that the charts were showing.

But as the week ended on Wall Street, investors were cheered by more bullish, again. They found good news on the unemployment rate, the US economy's most serious concern, as news reports describe it, "only" 247,000 jobs were lost, reflecting the unemployment rate to

Ashmore . . .

From page B1

But even if the government takes up the challenge to buy back the stake, Ang said San Miguel's option to acquire a controlling stake in Petron would not be affected.

Ang said the option would still cover the shares that Petron bought from Saudi Arabian Oil Co. (Saudi Aramco) as well as from the public which is where the offer was completed in July last year. Outside of the 40 percent stake bought from the government, the Ashmore group still holds about 58.57 percent in Petron.

"The shares bought from Aramco and the public are still committed to San Miguel," Ang said.

San Miguel on Monday agreed to pay $40 million for the exclusive option to buy the holding company that has a controlling stake in Petron within a period of two years from Dec. 24, 2008.

But for years, Ashmore has acquired 96.85 a share in a total of P25.7 billion for the 443-percent block purchased by the government. As of yesterday, the stock was worth about P20.62 billion based on the closing price of P5.60 a share.

BUSINESS

Meralco wants to hike distribution rate by 26.9¢

Peso now more competitive, says Bangko Sentral

By Michelle V. Rarus

THE PESO IN THE SECOND QUARTER depreciated in real terms against other currencies, making it more price competitive, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said.

Economists said this development should have benefited the export sector as it may reduce revenues once charging.

A drop in the value of the peso against other currencies make Philippine-made goods cheaper, and therefore more attractive, to foreign buyers.

According to data from the BSP the peso averaged 47.89 to-a-US-dollar in the second quarter, slightly depreciating from 47.75 in the first quarter.

The BSP said that, if compared with that of major trading partners' currencies—the US dollar, the euro, the Japanese yen and the UK pound—the real effective exchange rate (REER) index of the peso dropped by 0.9 percent in the second quarter from that in the first quarter.

REER index shows the average movement of the peso against other currencies and adjusted for inflation rate different trade among concerned countries.

Adjusting for inflation is necessary to reflect true competitiveness of export goods.

Data from the BSP also showed that the peso's REER against the currencies of competitor countries—Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia and Hong Kong—fell by 3.1 percent in the second quarter compared with that of the previous quarter.

Analysts said the peso's improving price competitiveness would ease the impact of the global turmoil on the export sector. They said export revenues could have dropped even further if the peso had been stronger than it was.

Bernardo Villegas, economist from the University of Asia and the Pacific, said the government should weaken the exchange rate a bit not only to help the export sector but also the families of overseas Filipino workers.

Power distributor cites projected investments, operating expenses

By Amy R. Remo

MANILA ELECTRIC CO., THE COUNTRY'S biggest power distributor, seeks to hike its distribution charges by 26.9 centavos per kilowatt-hour (kWh) to P1.4817 per kWh for regulatory year 2010 under a performance-based regulation (PBR) scheme.

Meralco currently charges an average of P1.2217 per kWh for distribution, supply and metering—up by almost 20 centavos per kWh from last year's level—following the Energy Regulatory Commission's approval of its PBR application in April 2009.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange last Friday, Meralco vice president and utility economist Ronnie dela Peña said that the company had submitted its rate verification and translation filing to the Energy Regulatory Commission.

The filing covers the period of July 2009 to June 2010.

According to Dela Peña, the ERC ruling refers to the annual new translation process, which will see Meralco's Maximum Average Price (MAP) for its various customer categories for 2010.

The filing, based on the ERC's PBR guidelines, is a verification process, which will involve the validation of parameters, inputs or factors that will determine the rates Meralco is allowed to charge, she explained.

Among the factors that are considered are inflation, as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI); the peso-dollar exchange rate; performance incentive (rewards or fines); and any correction due to previous periods, as well as under- or over-recovery, Dela Peña said.

"Using these parameters, Meralco's customized MAP for RY 2010 is P1.4817 per kWh," Dela Peña further said.

Meralco's petition will have to undergo public hearings before the ERC approves it, she said.

Under the PBR scheme, a power or utility may charge rates based on projected investments and operating expenses related to the distribution of electricity.

Because it is incentive-based, the PBR methodology is expected to result in better electricity rates, more efficient delivery of service to customers and optimal use of a firm's assets.

Since 2007, Meralco has been trying to complete several projects worth P28.68 billion. The power distributor hopes to finish the projects by 2011. That undertaking will allow Manila, under the PBR, to implement new tariffs beginning in July 2007.

Meralco's proposed P80-based tariffs application was approved in April this year.

All private distribution utilities in the Philippines are mandated to use the PBR scheme—a new pricing methodology employed in the United States, the United Kingdom and Australia.

Earlier, Meralco said that the implementation of the PBR scheme had helped increase its distribution services by 10.4 percent in the first half of last year.

Fresh banana exports seen growing by 15% in 2009

By Riza T. Olchondra

BANANA EXPORTS FELL SLIGHTLY grow by 15 percent to $826 million this year, given the continued market acceptance overseas, according to the Philippine Banana Growers and Exporters Association (PHILEX).

PHILEX spokesperson Anthony R. Tinio said the 15-percent growth would bring the volume of banana exports this year to about 2.2 million metric tons (MT) or 170 million boxes.

In 2008 the Philippines exported about 1.9 million MT or about 148 million boxes of fresh bananas. This generated $726 million in revenue.

Tinio said the growth was supported by competitive farming and shipping methods that were accepted even in markets with strict standards, such as Japan.

"Japan has the most stringent standards worldwide, with pages upon pages of requirements, even on chemical residue and chemical for traceability. Yet we pass them. Requirements aside, flying colors," Tinio said.

Further growth in exports in coming years as the United States and Australia, two huge markets, have also started opening up to Philippine bananas.

The US Department of Agriculture has issued a risk assessment report on Philippine bananas stating that the fruit could be brought into the Continental US if mitigating measures to address identified pests were put in place. Protocol and rulemaking talks are expected to start soon.

Tinio said the banana sector would continue to observe internationally accepted farming practices as it targeted other overseas markets. The opening of new markets encourages banana farmers to improve production.

TROPHY BEARERS
Shakey's CVP and COO Ric L. Gregorio (second from left) is flanked by Cebu bandmates (from left) Ivy Iving, Danny Arce Arvin, and Jamie Ryan Tan. For the second year in a row, Shakey's has been named Outstanding Filipino Franchise of the Year in the restaurant food category.

MyVote.MyTurn.

HOW I WILL DECIDE

The Inquirer keeps me informed. The 2010 election is really about _____ (HOT TOPIC?) _____.

Our next president needs to be someone capable of _____ (CHARACTER TRAIT) _____ like _____ (POLITICAL HERO) _____, and not capable of _____ (POLITICAL SCANDAL) _____.

No one knows for sure what will happen. But I will make my vote happen.

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INQUIRER

Monthly, our Research Department will collate the results which will be printed in the Inquirer. Entries filled with good thinking outside ideas/innovative approaches/provocative opinions will receive surprise prizes.

BTr rejects bids for 90-day, 1-year treasury bills

By Bernadette M. Damicog

THE INTEREST RATE ON THE 364-DAY treasury bill went up by 4.8 basis points to an average of 4.177 percent yesterday as buyers sought higher yields for short investments in government debt, state debt papers.

However, the Bureau of the Treasury (BTr) rejected all tenders for the benchmark 91-day T-bills and 182-day T-bills.

Had the BTr accepted the bids and awarded its offer of P2 billion for the bellwether issue in full, the yield would have gone up by 12.1 basis points to an average of 3.957 percent.

Similarly, if the BTr awarded fully its P1-billion offer for the six-month T-bill, the interest would have increased by 17.3 basis points to an average of 3.771 percent.

All three offers were oversubscribed by up to three times, with investors tendering a total of P6.24 billion for the three-month T-bill and P6.761 billion for the six-month debt paper.

Buyers tendered P6.06 billion for the one-year T-bill although the BTr's offer was only P3.5 billion.

Yesterday's bidding was a reversal of the auctions held two weeks ago when yields on all issues fell across the board.

On July 27, the interest rate on the 91-day issue dropped by 61.8 basis to 3.83 percent; the 182-day issue by 47.8 bps to 4 percent, and the 364-day issue by 25 bps to 4.3 percent.

National Treasurer Roberto R. Tan said in an interview yesterday that the BTr rejected offers for the 91-day and 182-day bills to avoid a "very abrupt uptick" on yields.

Asked what would have been acceptable increases in the cost of such borrowings, Tan said the 0.8 basis point cost increase for the 364-day T-bills should suggest what was acceptable.

Deputy Treasurer Edmundo A. Mendiola, who substitutes as chair of the auction committee when Tan is not around, said in an earlier interview that an increase of less than 6 basis points was considered "not significant" and potentially seems coincidence at all.

Also, Tan said the market remained liquid, especially with P93.13 billion worth of bonds maturing this week—representing funds waiting to be "redeployed."

Last week, the BTr rejected all bids for five-year treasury bonds as buyers asked for higher rates despite a very liquid market.

The T-bond offer was about two and a half times oversubscribed as buyers entered a total of P22.861 billion against the BTr's offer of P6.5 billion.

Airline passenger traffic still rising

By Miko Pineda

AIRLINE PASSENGER TRAFFIC FOR DOmestic flights continued to rise in the first half, posting an increase of 11 percent to 7.59 million against the 5.82 million seen in the same period last year.

Data from the Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) revealed that Cebu Pacific carried 3.61 million passengers in the first semester from 3.57 million a year ago.

Philippine Airlines (PAL) meanwhile hosted 3.21 million passengers compared with the 2.25 million it carried in the first six months last year.

Zest Air flew 423,000 from 230,000 in the same period last year.

PAL Express, the low-cost, domestic unit of PAL, carried 346 passengers year-on-year—254,000 against 423,000 last year.

Passenger volume of SEAir also declined to 83,000 from 138,000 last year.

CAB deputy director Percival Portacio Jr. pointed out that the airlines' increase in capacity as well as their promotional offerings, contributed to the rise in domestic passenger traffic.

"The market responded well to the promotions airline companies offered," Portacio said in a phone interview, explaining that competition among the players remained stiff.

He added that additional traffic by way of frequencies in destinations also became a factor.

The Dabaogtan-owned Cebu Pacific continues to offer more flights to top destinations.

"It's still the same strategy in stimulating passenger traffic by offering the lowest fares to different markets and adding more frequencies in domestic flights," said Candice Iyog, Cebu Pacific vice president for marketing.

The company is slated to set an advertising target of 8 million passengers this year, the added.

Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan

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How I tamed my fearful mind and found 'Stillpoint'

JOHN and Lucy Ryan in Rotorua, the Maori Lynx

The breath tames the mind. It brings you to the present, right here, right now. It washes away fears developed in the past, and fears that might develop in the future

By Rebecca de Villa
Contributor

HOW DO I FIND IT?

I went to a yoga conference in Malaysia, attending a class of over 300 people. The teacher, John Ryan, walked over, took my hand and led me to the centre of calm.

Deep, peaceful, gentle. I have a flair of speaking in syllables. I can dry-nod, yet, I knew I was.

Exhale, inhale. Exhale, inhale.

There was no hide: I could disappear into I surrendered to the beaches. To my breath.

The 600 plus eyes were gone. The only thing I heard was John counting and his instructions that guided me through the "mount" (posture). Then my mind was "gone."

I have a list of invented positions and three I was doing a headstand. Not knowing what I was doing, I panicked when I realized that I was "stranded." "Oh my God, I am upside down." Then, sure more. I heard his instructions. "Exhale, inhale."

There was silence—a stillness once again...until the demonstration was over. I "woke up" and quickly went back to my mat, thinking I wouldn't believe I had done that—and in front of people!

Reconnection

Three months later, I was at Stillpoint in Upper Moutere, Nelson, New Zealand. This is where John and his wife Lucy live, but they continue to lead Ashtanga Mysore Yoga in their classes as it was taught to them by their guru, the late Sri K Pattabhi Jois.

After listening to John talk about how the practice of yoga awakens you with all and how, with your breath, body and mind as one you hear Mooiraa as it connects and reconnects you with everything around you (this is very similar to the teachings of Gurmee in India, where I have been going since 2006), I realized that this was the teacher for me.

And, if I could learn to count, being only one of hundreds in a class, how much more could I learn in a class of six (classes at Stillpoint are usually limited to six to eight people)?

I have been practicing Ashtanga regularly since May 2006. My first class was in 2001. At Stillpoint, in March 2008, though, I felt like I was starting from square one. The breathing, the concentration...The first two days were spent recovering old habits, taking steps back to the beginning.

Something new

At the start of the second week, John was leading me into something new. Again, he counted, leading me through an "asana" sequence. The "crouched-Cocoon Move-Full Moon-Rainbow" were the words he used, following the exhales and inhales.

To do the Cocoon Move, while doing a headstand, you bring your feet towards the front of the mat to form the shape of a crescent with your body. In the Full Moon, your feet touch your head. In the Rainbow, your feet then return to the ground and you are in a headstand.

I was fearful of inverted positions (I still am) and of headstands, and yet I managed to do them. "Great," John said, when I came back on my feet standing, to disbelief in front of my mat.

"One more time," he then said.

"No, I can't."

"You just did."

(CONTINUED) C2

JOHN helping a student with Visishtasana I, the Warrior Lynx

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Conceptis Sudoku

			4		2		6	
						7		5
		7		5	6		9	
7						3		8
		6		8		1		
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	2			9	1		5	
3		8						
	7			2		5		

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HOW TO PLAY SUDOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

6	7	3	5	1	4	9	2	8
8	4	9	3	2	7	6	5	1
1	2	5	8	9	6	4	3	7
2	6	7	9	4	8	1	8	3
3	8	1	6	7	5	2	9	4
4	9	6	1	3	2	8	7	5
5	6	2	4	8	3	7	1	9
9	3	8	7	6	1	5	4	2
7	1	4	2	5	9	3	8	6

How Geni Psinakis helps Smokey Mountain residents fight poverty

By Margo C. Enriquez
Contributor

IN 1998, THE ULTIMATE MAMA Eugenia "Geni" Lopez-Psinakis and her brothers got a rude shock when the clinic reformed in the Philippines after years of strife.

Accustomed to American prosperity, they were appalled by the Third World living standards. Patients were shunned when late mother engaged her children to prayer by its Ruda Mansion-type family residence of charity work, her mother celebrated her birthdays by holding her birthday at the richest home for street children.

In the past two decades, she studied and lived abroad, ran a hotel restaurant at the age of 25 and co-founded Zamora, a bed-and-breakfast place in Boracay. Three years ago, Benjamin Compos, a graduate counselor at Stonier School, brought Psinakis to Smokey Mountain in Manila.

Moved by the depressing conditions in the garbage dumpsite, she spent eight hours in front of her computer, sending e-mails to friends asking for help.

However, her visits became sporadic. Thereafter, Psinakis spent several months in America, her comfort zone. With a job offer at the family-owned ABS-CBN channel in the Philippines, she was ready to leave the country for good, yet her brother told her to remain in the country to serve.

Since May, the 34-year-old actor has been working at the 9th International Inc. Philippines (WEP) as business development manager, thereby a year in existence, the WEP aims to find solutions to fight poverty by collaborating with other organizations and helping the poor in free themselves from their burden through education.

QUIET Psinakis with a malnourished child. Many of them have respiratory ailments or skin diseases.

Campers urged Abigail Alfaro by to help him establish an NGO that would initially do development work in Smokey Mountain. The 22-year-old by had been doing volunteer work with them she was in high school. In Vancouver, the weekend in the youth-oriented, nonprofit organization Global Agents for Change, which supports sustainable solutions to global poverty. WEP's holistic approach includes livelihood projects, health care, micro-finance, education and programs to developed-sectors.

WEP's role models are Manuel Mimaroog and his wife Victoria. Kuya Manuel, as he is called, grew up as a scavenger in Smokey Mountain. Thirteen years ago, a Dutch missionary told him that poverty was a choice. Inspired, he started working for Christian NGOs, moved out of the dumpsite and successfully put his four children to school. His Victoria has a daycare center for indigent children.

Getting cooperation:

WEP's major partner is Young Heads, an NGO which supports education and nutrition programs. Of the 500 children in Smokey Mountain whose one-year scholarship is sponsored, 20 are WEP beneficiaries. It's a first that a Philippine organization was able to raise funds solely from local benefactors in a short time.

Psinakis says that scholarships returned to recruiting for lack of employment. WEP was able to find jobs for two graduates with Young Heads guests that brought them away from the dumpsite. Another partner, Outback restaurant chain, will provide on-the-job training to deserving individuals.

To give opportunities to students, WEP tapped Rags2Riches, a social business venture that engages them in the production of fashionable and eco-friendly products. The students then learn a trade while staying at home. Their children can go to school with the Young Focus guests and so they do not have to resort to being scavengers.

Aside from providing feeding programs and exposing the students to culture, WEP is working with Intelligent Healthcare Systems. Dr. Maria Clemen, one of the founders, offered to open the borrower clinics in Smokey Mountain and provide services at a 50 percent discount. The doctors and staffers will work as volunteers and all the proceeds will go to the Smokey Mountain program.

Camara recalls the horror when Psinakis escorted visitors to Smokey Mountain. "I saw two babies, no more than 12 months old, left abandoned in a dirty shack with an empty bowl of rice as the center. Their parents permanently were out, working in the dump. People rushed towards garbage with total disregard for personal safety to get the first pick of the refuse. Cranes scooped and smelled down inches away from their bodies. Children wandered through thick smoke from burning wood to make charcoal for sale. Human beings should not be subjected to such adverse living conditions."

Plans are afoot to train individuals as manager therapists for future livelihood and medical missions. Camara believes that when government has failed, NGOs and foundations can help improve the quality of people's lives by transforming their destructive patterns into positive ones.

In hopes to dispel the notion that when organizations collaborate, they tend to lose sight of their vision due to ego, Psinakis adds, "Share can be accomplished when we work with others and cooperate."

PROUD by Smokey Mountain's distinction, Bar Compass made supporting developmental work in the area its advocacy.

WEP and donors will host a fund-raising program, We Help for Smokey Mountain projects, it will start on Aug. 23, from 1 to 5 p.m. at Bar Compass, corner Perdido Ave. and Mckinley Makati. at 63-922-0136897 or e-mail feb-carrebellano@yahoo.com. For more information on WEP visit www.weinternational.org.ph or write to P.O. Box 2216, Makati Central Post Office, Makati, Philippines. For more information on Outcasts and services, visit www.bocaycanteen.com.

VICTORIA and Manuel Mimaroog, WEP role models, with some children

CECILIA Martinez-Miranda, WEP director (third from left), is flanked by Psinakis (in blue shirt), the Mimaroogs and the "angels" who look after the daycare center.

Running—improperly—can be hazardous to your health

By Anna A. Jamboro

THE GUILDEN POPULARITY of running has seen the Philippines with more runners than ever before, and along with more runners is a slew of running-related injuries.

For while running is an exercise way to keep fit, the repetitive pounding on the pavement for extended periods is merciless on the body.

Without the correct running form and properly fitted gear, running can be an unpleasant, even painful experience.

"Everything starts at the feet. When the feet are not properly aligned and don't support the body well, it will translate to problems all the way to your back and neck," said Toby Claudio, founder of Runex at Bonifacio High Street, The Fort in Taguig.

Runex is the only running specialist store in the country, said Claudio, and probably the only one in the world that brings together under one roof three orthopedists that address the major components of running.

Three processes

Footwear Fitting involves three critical processes to determining the best type before recommending the right footwear: Footprint Scanning, High-Speed video Gait Analysis and Custom Insole Molding.

With running events held almost every week and registrants racing into thousands per event, Claudio said now is the best time to have the right running equipment, such as shoes and insoles, properly fitted to prevent injuries and/or to correct foot alignment.

Getting properly fitted means getting accurate and comprehensive recommendations based on individual foot type and gait characteristics, he said.

A team of highly trained staff, all runners, will guide clients through the Footwear Fitting process. Foot morphology is analyzed in the Runex Podoscope. The Podoscope has two mirrors that synchronously scanning system to view and measure the footprint, and arch dimensions to determine foot type.

Next step is the High-Speed Video Gait Analysis, where runners run on a treadmill while their feet are recorded on video to check pronation angles while they run.

"This will check your natural tendency when you run. Then you get to see to see three different shoes recommended to you and see how they correct your natural tendency," Claudio said.

The correct alignment from foot to leg, he said, should be 180 degrees. The degrees off that mark and you're going to need the right shoes and probably insoles to reduce the angle of pronation. When the pronation is corrected, Claudio said, the running form and speed will improve, and the runner will become pain-free and enjoyable once more.

Look for shoes that will give you the straightest alignment in that zones is equally distributed.

"Feet properly aligned absorb shock better. In flat feet, for instance, knees bend inward as the arena is on the outer side of the knees. With the right shoes, alignment can be achieved and shock absorbed better. You run better and run longer distances with less pain. The gait improves and the ankles become more powerful," he said.

TOBY Claudio, founder of Runex, and Anthony Pangilinan

PHOTO BY NOEL ATONA

ROMANTO Claudio, chair of Toby's Sports, with business executive and triathlete Fe Ricardo. Color: Ayala

Everything starts at the feet

Final step

The final step is the custom-made technology called Flash-fit, a molding process where insoles are laser-created for a few minutes. Claudio highly recommends this for people with flat feet or high arches, and even for those with previous injuries or previous incidents of injuries.

"Run left foot is different from your right. With custom-made, you'll have insoles that conform to the exact shape of your foot and correct the alignment. Then parts you can use the insoles in shoes other than your trainers," he said.

Combining proper and service, Claudio and Runex has the added selection of running gear in the country today. The shoe introduces for the first time between a responsive runner based in the running industry.

With its distinct design of legs that protrude outside the sole, however shoes become more efficient in absorbing shock as the foot hits the ground.

The shock goes into the shoe, explained Claudio, which returns energy so it can propel the runner forward. He also said Newton is designed to promote the natural way of running, which is on the mid or forefoot.

"The midfoot uses your whole anatomy to absorb the shock, compared to landing on your heel where the shock is transferred all the way up to your body," he said.

Other running gear

Also available are running tights and shorts by CW-X Conditioning Wear. CW-X is compression wear that keeps the leg muscles, tendons, knees, ligaments, hamstrings and calves. The patented Support Path system reduces impact and load on the legs by aligning the knees, hips and ankles.

According to studies, said Claudio, the CW-X tights and shorts reduce energy expenditure by 26 and 36 percent, respectively. They promote better circulation—very important especially when in a vertical position for a very long time. They help reduce the workload in the running muscles pull and push, for more efficient performance.

Coming from a family of sports enthusiasts, Claudio admitted he has never been a running fan until last one year ago.

"I have had feet. I have two scenes on my surgically repaired knees from soccer and a bad back from other sports. Running was a painful experience. I discovered that with the right gear and fitting it can be an enjoyable, pain-free experience," he said.

Expect to see results within a month using properly fitted running gear, he said. Runex also has accessories such as rope with neoprene, running waist specific for the left and right foot, of nylon and spandex that are easy and which don't absorb sweat, polar heart rate monitors specific for running and general exercise activities, water bottles, and energy supplements and gels.

"Everyone can run. When I started it was without pain, that's when I enjoyed the sport. Now I do my thinking when running," Claudio said.

RUNNERS to now open at Bonifacio High Street.

How I tamed ...

From page C1

"Yes, but now I know what you are going to ask me to do and I can't."

"Just be your breath," he said. And, as I became my breath, my mind was still. And it was possible. Anything was.

The breath tames the mind. It brings you to the present, right here, right now. It teaches away from developed to be quiet and draw the angle drawings in the future. Being truly in the present, right here, right now, there was no other place I wanted to be.

Tao tames fear by Nevi Zealand in such a beautiful country with wonderful food and wines and very welcoming people. More than, I have renamed tarian, for a total of 10 weeks, to do break out and most of Lucy and Aimee training.

And though I know I can find challenges wherever I am, I will still return to the place where I learned what it was all about.

There backward steps I took were really keys to travel. I have not fully surrendered my breath, but I am a student of the breath, and for a lifetime, still be.

Certified Ashtanga Vinyasa Yoga teacher Jodie Scott will be here for a five-day workshop on Sept. 13 to 18. The workshops will occur during the week of the Spine, Ursprung and the Conference How of the Breath, Pratyahara—Turning the Mind in on the Aspirations and How Ashtanga Vinyasa Yoga Really Works.

For more information, e-mail jodie@ashtangamanila.com; tel. (0917) 5228462.

How to prepare for an international marathon

By Mitch Felipe
Contributor

I WAS ONE OF THE 35,000 runners from all over the globe who recently joined the San Francisco Marathon. I was able to achieve my sub-four goal finish time of three hours and 55 minutes. It started at Embarcadero as early as 5:30 a.m. The event's highlight was running to and from the Golden Gate Bridge, which covers about 8 km. The marathon was known for its hilly race course and the best scenic views. There were several of us who joined the 42K, and I have the ball to prove how.

Joining a marathon abroad live up one's commitment to health and fitness and at the same time, gives the break that you deserve.

Plan ahead

- Choose a marathon location via websites or magazines. Register online if you want to avail of early-bird discounts.
- Consider the weather conditions of the country you plan to visit. Run in cool places if you would go for long-distance races like 26.2 miles (42.195 km) to avoid cramps. But if you have medical conditions like asthma, check twice before going to places with extreme cold weather as Canada is there.
- Research on the running events and feedback of runners who have joined the marathon to have a clear picture of what to expect.

SAN FRANCISCO marathon participants

ARMAND Mendoza, Mitch Felipe and running editor Bart Ilano

MENDOZA, Felipe, Arnel and Rona Bayaugbig-ang and Eileen Lorenzo

Before the race

A day before the marathon, I claimed my race pack (consisting of a shirt, bib number and energy bars) with my running group at the expo. We were there for almost three hours and saw popular coaches and runners. There was even a pasta party held in the afternoon.

Dean Karnazes, the ultra-marathon man, gave a talk on his long-distance running adventures. He featured in I brought a book, "My Life on the Run," which was signed by Bart Yasso, chief running officer of Runners World magazine. It was such a wonderful experience to see them in person.

E-mail the author at mitchjfelipe@gmail.com.

Wheat grass can help prevent cancer

HERE ARE MY ANSWERS TO your numerous questions on how to feel better, live better.

Q: What are the factors that raise my cholesterol level?

Smoking, caffeine, stress, pills, refined sugar, food additives, environmental pollutants and high-fat diets. Eat wisely. For example, light-meat turkey has only 67 mg of cholesterol; dark meat, 79 mg; and chopped turkey liver (used as gravy), 858 mg.

Q: Is wheat grass a fad?

Wheat grass is popular because it's the easiest way to convert internal imbalance. A pair of the rarest grass family like barley, oats and rye, is less high **alkaline. Loaded with proteins** (more than chicken), Vitamin A (higher than spinach), calcium (more than broccoli), among others, it contains 17 amino acids, 13 vitamins and 18 minerals.

INSIDE OUT
Cory Quirino

In chlorophyll, which I have dubbed "green blood," immediately gives your cells blood a natural "chelation" effect by flowing the heavy metals (which can cause cancer).

Call Easy Pharma for information. The powdered tea variety is compact and practical. 361-806-1711.

Q: I am always catching colds. Help!

How is a sure-fire remedy, which is part of my regimen.

- Take two glasses of lukewarm water before breakfast (after brushing your teeth).
- Remember to "swish" in your mouth two teaspoons of fresh virgin coconut/olive/sesame oil. This will draw out all the bacteria from your mouth. After 10 minutes, spit it out.
- Drink two tablespoons of virgin coconut oil.
- Take one cup of wheat grass juice.
- Take two tablespoons of fresh kefir (super probiotic yogurt-type drink).
- Take three tablespoons of acai berry concentrate.
- Have a fresh glass of fruits and cold-pulverized oatmeal without sugar.
- Take five servings of mixed vegetables.
- Have fish/chicken once a day (preferably organic).
- Eat red/brown rice.
- Exercise three times a week.
- Supplement: One multivitamin/mineral supplement.
- 1,000 mg Vitamin C (two times daily).
- 500 mg of super antioxidants: Multi 5
  - One capsule per capsule daily
  - One sun tuga capsule daily
- Drink 10-12 glasses of water.

Call *World of Wellness*, tel. 352-3864.

Q: What is the best anti-stress regimen?

Learn to relax. Give yourself quiet time. Balance work with pleasure and load up on extra B complex on highly stressful days. Pray and meditate. And **learn how to laugh.**

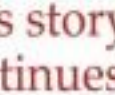
Affirm: "Sunshine follows me every day of my life."

Love and light!

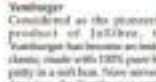
Jollibee's story of innovation continues to unfold

Over the years, Jollibee has become well-known for introducing products that capture the hearts—and satisfy the palates—of Filipinos everywhere. Indeed, one of the many secrets to its continued success is its ability to capture the taste of the times and translate it into trend-setting culinary offerings. A quick glance at its numerous milestones in offering great-tasting products easily proves this point.

1978
Yumburger
Considered as the pioneering product of Jollibee, the Yumburger has become an instant classic, made with 100% pure beef patty in a soft bun. Now served with Jollibee's own special dressing, the Yumburger continues to carry that distinct and unrivalled langhap-sarap taste that Pinoys love.

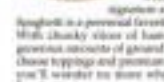


1979
Jollibee Spaghetti
Famous for its distinct and decadent spaghetti sauce appealing to the Filipino taste which has become its signature attribute, Jollibee Spaghetti is a perennial favorite among diners. With chunky slices of ham and sausages, generous amounts of ground beef, abundant cheese toppings and premium quality noodles, you'll wonder no more why it is truly the Spaghetti best.

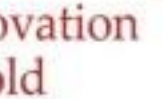


1980
Chickenjoy
Perfectly seasoned, Chickenjoy has gone on to become the nation's all-time favorite and best-selling chicken – crispy on the outside and tender and juicy inside. Pinoys from all ages just couldn't get enough of its crispylicious, juicylicious, satisfy-delicious and gravylicious goodness – making it easily the best-selling item in the Jollibee menu.

1982
Palabok Fiesta
Showcasing Jollibee's commitment to introduce more Filipino classics to its menu, Jollibee's version of this favorite Pinoy dish features premium bihon noodles served with mouth-watering palabok sauce and toppings of sautéed pork, shrimp bits, shrimps and egg. Having an instant fiesta with your family and friends becomes a breeze.



1984
Champ
A loyal favorite among those with hearty appetites, the Champ is famous for its 1/4 lb. hamburger patty made with 100% pure beef that's garnished with the freshest vegetables and a creamy slice of cheese served in a soft sesame bun. Jollibee's premium burger fits the bill spot-especially for those craving for something filling and satisfying up to the very last bite. With the Champ, you can truly enjoy big burger goodness like no other!



1989
Peach Mango Pie
This unique and delicious dessert introduced by Jollibee became a welcome treat for those craving for a sweet fix. A blend of diced peaches and mangoes in a delectable

crunchy crust, this product is one of Jollibee's first dessert pies and remains a very popular item even today.

1995
Burger Steak
Jollibee introduced a new way of enjoying burger via the Burger Steak that is paired with a Filipino meal style – steamed rice. It became an instant hit especially with its 100% pure beef burger patties topped with flavorful mushrooms gravy. A simple comfort food which is a hit among people – both young and old.

With its unbeatable track record in coming up with hit products like these – each one attuned to the Filipino taste – Jollibee has carried on with its tradition of offering only the best-tasting, affordable and quality meals to all its loyal customers.

This 2009, brace yourselves as you will soon discover the hottest new creation yet from the same makers of those blockbuster products. Coming soon in all Jollibee stores across the nation.

Can one close his third eye?

"I DID NOT EXPECT IT TO BE willing to you about a recent event that happened to my family," writes Jay Gamil of Sampaloc, Manila.

"We went to my mother's house in Pampanga for my **grandfather's** 80th birthday celebration. It is located beside my grandparents' house.

"My eyes of seven years, who I always bring along whenever I visit my mother, experienced something unbelievable

INNER AWAKENING

Jaime T. Licauco

last June 26, my grandfather's birthday. He barely began breathing and she had chills...although she didn't have a fever.

"We thought she was 'nasaan,' so we asked my grandfather's second wife (my grandmother died five years ago), who became her mother, to help us. After the ritual, my eyes didn't stop shaking and became uncontrollable. She then recommend one of my aunts, who started praying over her.

"Then my step-grandmother came to do down a second time. By this time, my eyes began to act like the one possessed. Then she told my step-grandmother to get out of the house. After a few minutes of praying over by my aunt, my eyes calmed down and asked 'What happened?'

"My questions are as follows:

1. "This is due from four-generation? Is this a curse? Or is it a curse?

2. "Why did this happen only to my eyes when there were other persons in the house?

3. "Could it be my grandmother's spirit who wanted to see my grandmother she didn't like her and she wanted her out of the family?

4. "If it is the spirit of my grandma, does it mean she is still with us and that she wants to convey something?

5. "What can we do so it will not happen again?"

Possessed

I think you are correct in your theory that your pajat (or tawas) was possessed by an entity or spirit. But what type of spirit possessed your eyes should have been determined by the mercurial which is a crystal type of diagnostic.

Although your mother's house was built 10 years ago, this was the first time it happened probably because this was the first time a sensitive person with a mediumistic tendency or was an open channel came to that house.

Although it is possible it was indeed your grandma's spirit, it is also possible it was the work of some mischievous or negative elementals or nature spirits such as "duwende" or "engkantao."

If this was your grandmother's spirit, then yes, it means she is earthbound and is still attached. Prayers would help, and if she was a religious person, perhaps offering a Mass for the eternal repose of her soul might help.

You asked if this thing can happen again to your eyes. The answer is yes, because she is an open channel or medium. To prevent this from happening again, your eyes must have some protection, and her third-eye chakra should be controlled by her. You can't close a third eye or chakra per se but close it down or lessen. Consult a reliable spiritualist or clairvoyant healer to help you.

Note: The next Soulmates, Karma & Reincarnation seminar will be on Aug. 15, 1-7 p.m. Call 413-7245/892-6886. e-mail jaime@mysticjaime.com

Editor Ricardo G. Valundo

ENTERTAINMENT

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INSIDE

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■ **Collaborations in Gloc-9's new CD** Spin /D4

Jessica Soho and Noynoy Aquino?

IF THERE'S ONE LOCAL TV SHOW I hardly miss, it's "Kapuso Mo, Jessica." I totally like Jessica Soho's style. I mean her: "Heard that Eva Aquino is pointing you off with Noynoy?"

Jessica, laughing, explains: "She was only joking 'cause Noynoy and I were seated next to each other in the van. Buwa I'm forever grateful to Kris for giving me and my crew access for coverage of her mom's wake and burial and the looking out ride with them on the way to Manila Memorial."

Isn't Noynoy her type? "Let's not even go there," she says. "Noynoy himself said that he has a girlfriend. "(Ehehh her: "Ehh are subject to change. She's not yet his wife."

But a moment, she actually broadcast journalist in Jessica turned giggly. It's right time Jessica fires up to her top-rating show's title and find her Kapuso.

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

No politics for Ai Ai

Ai Ai de las Alas is all fired up to shoot a movie with Rep. "Papa Ersup and I portray a married couple with six kids," Ai says. "Five boys and one girl, to be played by Sissi Entenggo, ang mga small cousin Manuella na binayaan ang role ko."

How will she prepare for their much-awaited kissing scene? "I'll brush ng mouth ng hanggang kaya," she says.

What political advice will she give Ersup? "Ellegente ako sa politics," she says. "Parteypolitics ko do chat mawala ang ka-politikal agenda. It's for the sake of art and history. It's no honor na makasama ko ang isa sa mga bari ng politikang Pilipino."

Although Ai is involved in charity work, she says, "Di naman hailangan nay pasigawan ka para makatulong. "Even if Pinoy politics is such a crazy circus, the Cannes Comedy Queen would rather not be one of its clowns.

A blog for Dong

Blogdong Bautista was so inspired when he rewarded the winners of the "Unbloggable You're the 1 Blog Awards" (but he vowed to expurgate personal data he would soon start his own blog.

Accordingly to Dong, it's something he always wanted to do because the catharsis would be good for him. I

JOAQUIN GIL

House of cards

By Reynaldo Sun Diego Jr.

INDEPENDENT FILMMAKER JAUCO Herrera, who also reunites Bane helped bring at UP Diliman, wishes to gain the confidence of mainstream audiences with his third work, "Nag Mangbabalik," a thriller and an entry in last year's Cinemanila digital competition.

The film combines a popular cast with "indie" storytelling.

"Nag Mangbabalik" features GMA 7 stars in lead roles: Enda Valdez plays an outcast fortune-teller who awaits to her hometown to save her daughter Gladys de Castro from an unfortunate future.

Paolo recalls that he wrote the script (with Marlon Rivera) with Enda in mind. He previously directed her in the Cinema One film "Kubrador."

He said that Glaiza "has the makings of

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Jessica Soho and Noynoy Aquino?

From page D1

wonder what secrets of the heart his online journal will reveal.

Just friends

Is model Frenzie Rhodora Elizabeth (Gina Showcase's nephew) the new man in Liz Uy's life after Aston Lloyd Cruz? They are often spotted together. Once upon a time, he was linked to Camille Prats.

"They just hang out together," says Frenzie sister LJ Moreno, "because they have the same group friends. Jong sila." I chide LJ. "Ha show biz asawain, please." She retorts: "Bakang mawawag sapot ko."

But with Liz's charisma, it's not unlikely for Frenzie to eventually fall for her. Love is just a few heartbeats away from chivalship.

Careful, Anne

Anne Curtis is still recuperating from her car accident. Poor Anne! After the robbery in her home, she figured in a mishap. Bitter she was the one at fault, she shouldered all the damages.

Anne better take extra care because, as superstition goes, misfortune always comes in threes.

Giving back

"Eat Bulaga!" is not moving from GMA 7 to TV5, clarifies Malou Pagar, the show's chief operating officer. "We won't have a 26th anniversary celebration," she says. "Instead we will give back to our viewers by sending 30 scholars to school and starting the ministry with our "Raonin ng Kalinisan," a raffle process and more to be announced." Here's to more years of being EATerrific!

Milestone

Ellen's Skin Care Center celebrated its 30th year in the beauty business at its Timog branch with a bang. DJ JC Intal served up and coming actress Martha Daniels hosted the star-studded event.

Spotted at the bar were Evangeline Pascual, Josephine Cojuangco, Alma Concepcion, Pahrump, Alles Melendez, Say Alonzo and Joseph Bilangcal. The event's highlight was a fashion show featuring Manila's top models. Senator Richard Gordon was honorary spotter. Shiseido Marquee unveiled the new Ellen's billboard featuring her daughters Anael and Janice as the new endorsers.

Web surfing

Manila's hip and the happening joined in the fun last July 9 as Gateway Super Club in Gateway complexes launched its latest, coolest line of laptops, clubbing style.

The event started with a live shower parading followed by a parade of the new models. Gateway was no stranger to such fashion shows: the SX2000 Desktop, SX2401 and DX Series Notebooks, and LT2000 and LT3100 Netbook series. Lucky fashionistas and party people were given Mac watches while two lucky guests won the latest notebooks. The Gateway is hotter with surfing is now wide open!

OPENS TOMORROW

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF "OLD SCHOOL"

NOW SHOWING IN THEATERS EVERYWHERE

House of cards

From page D1

a powerful dramatic moment."

The movie boasts strong support from Gloria Romero, Emilio Garcia and Perla Bautista; it features cameos of the director's famous friends: Mark Gil, Angel Aquino, Epi Quizon, Meryll Soriano, Candy Pangilinan, Marlene Bautista and John Lapus, among others.

Among the cast members, he's particularly fond of veteran villainess Bella Flores who portrays an aging Korean exiler.

Paolo considers himself "fortunate" because it will take some time before Bella would grace the big screen again. "She migrated to the US after our shoot last year."

Paolo explains that he has always had a fascination for fortune-tellers. "Throughout my life, I always hung out with them unexpectedly."

For the director, "a deck of tarot cards" serves as "metaphor" for Pinoy life. "Although deeply religious, Filipinos still consult tarot," Jose and Quiapo. It's not uncommon for some people to go to the church and pray then later consult the manghuhula next-door."

For Paolo, making this film "sure like unraveling a deck of cards."

"Every step is connected to the next, each step helped create the film's grand design," he says.

After the challenge of shooting the film with high-definition camera, no less, comes the biggest challenge of distributing it.

"I want to earn the trust of mainstream audiences," he says. "I'm thankful to SM and Robinsons for their support. This movie was produced to entertain Filipino viewers."

"Ang Manghuhula" opens in theaters next month.

MMTA MOVIE GUIDE

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What now, Piolo Pascual?

"SAINT" PIOLO PASCUAL HAS been a film star for something like a decade now, so it's time to sum up his acting achievements to date after his big love in "Lapulapu," or can critics confidently predict in "Dekada '70" as one of his career's highpoints.

Parenthetically, we should add that he's also clubbed up pretty at a professor/lawyer—but it's his "Super Pinoy" title persona that current telly fetish fans to the public's purview.

All this is fine and dandy, but it's clear that, as one of local show biz's most established young leading men, Piolo's immediate acting achievements have come up short of real significance.

Predictable

Why the relative lack of acting oomph and stardom? Perhaps the love young stars his brand too cool and predictable for his own good. Although he's conventionally suited to be edgy, most of his big and much-screen projects have been less than surprising, and we get the nagging feeling that Piolo has tethered away too much time and opportunities.

To his credit, Piolo may have seen the handwriting on the wall, and has of late been trying to assert his autonomy by making some daring career choices beyond his cool, iconic image.

Mixed

Most significantly, he's turned professor of the indie movie "Manila," playing the lead rebel to its bon vivants.

This is an unusually assertive move for the generally tone-cool star, so we must see if our new to catch the film when it was screened as the opening feature of the 2009 Cinemalaya festival.

So how did Piolo do in his indie outing? In the movie's first story, he played a drug addict, so he didn't do much "acting," since his characters was cooked out most of the time. He acted, however, that he was natural in as addict, since he was too cold, bland and pan-cognitive for character.

Piolo's real acting challenge in "Manila" came in way of its second story, (a) spiced by Jim Brisbe's "Segnos" as the bodyguard. Piolo did better—but ultimately fell short, because he was too cool and mild for his character.

Yes, the "Segnos" was a country bumpkin who ruminated his place and kept his emotions to himself, but as the story's protagonist, he needed to describe an emotional arc that the actor failed to adequately plot and paint.

Unfortunate

All told, therefore, despite producer-star Piolo's best efforts and intentions, its "Manila" outing turned out to be a relative dud. This is most unfortunate because, at this point in his career, Piolo needs a big acting success to affirm his talent and excitingly usher in the next decade of his chiller career.

To make up for lost time, the actor should continue with his indie involvements, but he should work with filmmakers who will resist his tendency to push him out of his comfort zone, which has become as enthralling as a box for him.

It would well be that Piolo's signature coolness may turn out to be his most commonplace trait, as this essential point for his career. So, he's got to brush loose from his "cool" representations and focus himself.

Jackeys'

Every Monday starting today, Channel Plume's "Jackeys," a docu-drama about horse racing. See who crosses the finish line first in the quest to win a share of more than $35 million in prize money at the Oak Tree Meet.

Radio drama awards

Luz Fernandez and Augusto Victa led an elite roster of radio personalities who were recently honored for their contributions to the development of radio drama in ceremonies held at the Star Theater as part of the 70th anniversary celebrations of DZRH. Honorees included Betty Rosas, Tony Angeles, Nick de Guzman, Marietta Villegas, Eddie Leganzi and Phil Cruz.

PIOLO Pascual

'Flight of the Conchords'

The irreverent HBO musical-comedy series "Flight of the Conchords" has started its second season. The show revolves around the New York adventures of twin-pianist/Dire Zealanders Jermaine and Bret, who split their time between seeking fortune where they can perform and awkwardly court women.

MusoMano sale

The Sofitel Foundation's MusoMano quality brand's coffee store is holding a big anniversary sale until Aug. 22, with 30 percent off on selected items.

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Collaborations in Gloc-9's new CD

TWO LOCAL RAP RELEASES ONE from Gloc-9, the other from another Young JV.

"Matobato," Gloc-9's second major label Ocean Music CD, is loaded with socio-political overtones and insistent collaborations with Mocmed Morgan ("Pangarap"), Bisel Cabungcal ("Sleeved Ko"), Jhet Tic of Lolfee ("Isip Sisay ("Mamilya"), Gabby Alipe of Urbandub ("Rakita"), Gosby Gun ("Tito"), and Jeanell Grasso of Dolla ("Upstar").

"Weak or Not," meanwhile, is the independently produced debut album of Young JV. The record, distributed by Rebellion, contains 13 tracks, including the first single, "Hard Girl."

Dingdong's CD-DVD

"The Dingdong Dantes Experience" is a CD-DVD package which includes music videos starring the popular TV and movie actor, produced by Universal Records.

MJ retrospective

The 3-CD set "Michael Jackson and the Jackson 5—The Motown Years" (MCA) contains 50 tracks including songs previously unreleased locally. The album celebrates with the 50th anniversary of Motown—the label that brought your music into the forefront of the 60s pop scene.

YOUNG JV

Jordin Sparks' new CD

"Battlefield" (Sony Music) is Jordin Sparks' sophomore album release she recorded several tracks ("I'll Emerge Jay," "Shut I the Only One," "The Cure"); the second also features collaborations with Sparks' label mates including Pitbu.

Placebo's fifth release

"Battle for the Sun" (Universal Records) is the sixth studio release of modern rock trio Placebo, which reportedly debuted at No. 1 on Bill Board's European chart and in France, Germany, Austria

GLOC-9

and Switzerland.

Bossa nova-inspired

"Quiet Nights" (MCA Music), jazz pianist singer Diana Krall's 11th album, is largely inspired by her recent trip to Brazil to choose a concert for a new DVD release. The result is 10 songs, seven of which are done straight up bossa nova style. The album title, in fact, is the English name of Antonio Carlos Jobim's bossa nova classic "Corcovado" which is the title track.

Daughtry's No. 1 again

"Leave This Town" (Sony), Daughtry's second album, debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard 200, its second consecutive top album, after the quadruple-platinum self-titled debut.

'Madagascar' penguins in new animated series

NICKELODEON SPECIALS' "PENGUINS of Madagascar," an animated comedy TV series featuring the penguins from the 2005 film "Madagascar," returns for its third season.

Penguins Skipper, Kowalski, Private and Rico are on other four with regular commando skills and a wealth of new creative headquarters who perform various missions to protect their home in the Central Park Zoo.

The only character capable of distracting them from their mission is the villainous King Julien, the party animal self-proclaimed "King of the Lemurs" who just arrived at the zoo and is looking to shake things up a bit.

The show, which is about loyalty, community and working together, is filled with side-splitting scenes and humorous dialogue that the penguins and their friends experience.

The series airs on the Nickelodeon channel on Saturdays and Sundays at 11 a.m.

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